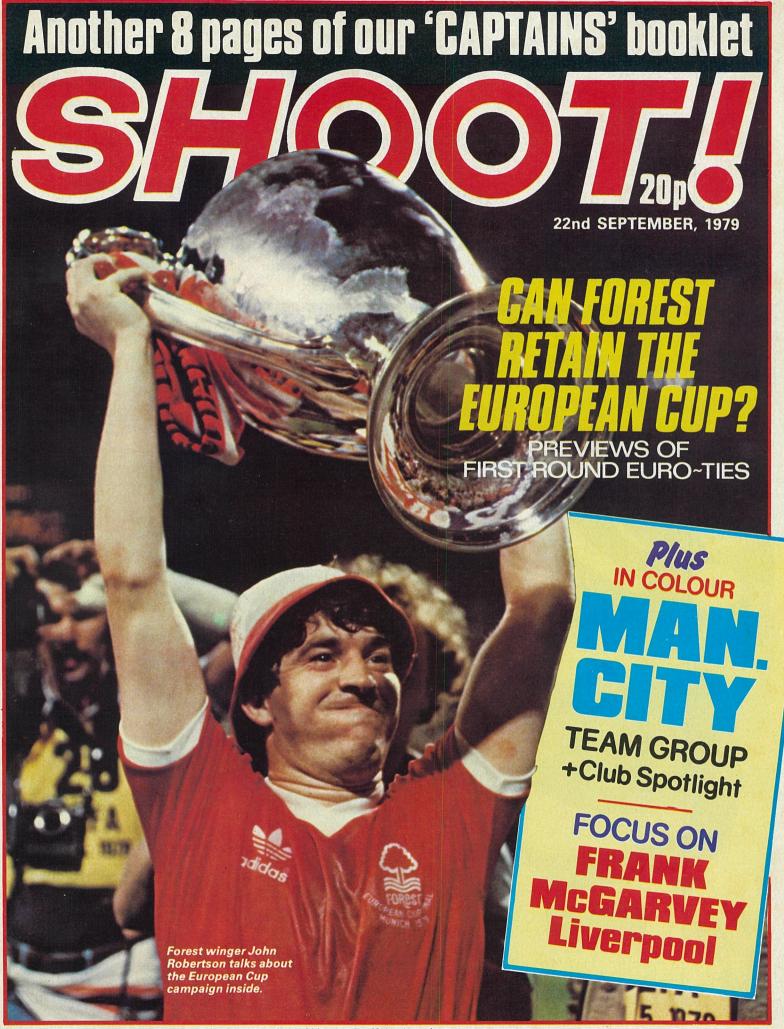
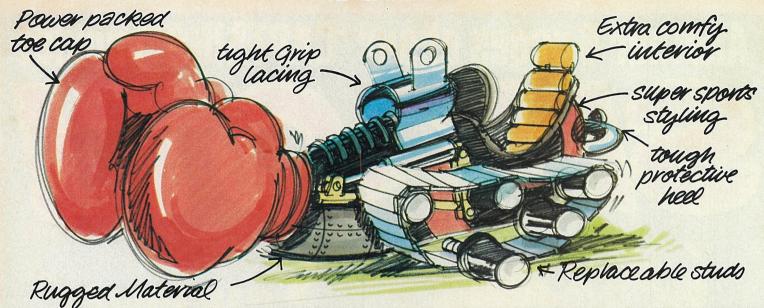
SCAW.



Australia — 45c; New Zealand — 45c; South Africa — 45c; Malaysia — \$1.30; Italy — L.800; Denmark — Kr.6.00; Canada — 55c.





AS Nottingham Forest prepare to take on Europe again, they know that the biggest threat to their crown is here in England. For no matter who Brian

For no matter who Brian Clough's men meet in defence of their European Cup, the team to beat will be Liverpool.

Forest's Scottish international winger John Robertson admitted: "I hope somebody knocks Liverpool out and if they don't, I'd like to meet them in the Final.

to meet them in the Final.

"When you have two teams from one country as good as Liverpool and ourselves it's a tragedy when they have to play each other as we did in the First Round of last season's competition.

"We'll have the utmost respect for each other and there is so little to choose between us that it will be such a pity of we are drawn together early on

be such a pity if we are drawn together early on.

"How tremendous it would be for English football if this season's Final was between Liverpool and Forest, but having said that, we know there are some other talented teams just as determined to win the trophy."

The relative unknowns of Östers, Forest's First Round opponents

EUROPEAN CUP PREVIEW

knocks out Liverpool

says JOHN ROBERTSON of European Cup holders Nottingham Forest

from Sweden, will certainly be determined but whether they have the ability to question the holders is doubtful

Östers won the Swedish League at a time when Malmö were preoccupied with making a name for
themselves in the European Cup,
but since then, Forest's opponents
have slipped back and their recent
form guide is not good.

That will count for nothing when they visit the City Ground on September 19th for the first-leg of the tie with Forest.

As Robertson added: "We don't

know a single thing about them at the moment, but no doubt we will before the game arrives. Whether it's Liverpool or Östers we take every single game as it comes along — it's the only way.

"Our management would not

"Our management would not allow us to play the game any other way and, to be honest, we would not have achieved anything like the kind of success we have without that attitude at the top.

"I am really looking forward to the European games again. It was a new experience for me last season and I thoroughly enjoyed it. You find you get a lot of Continen-



tals marking you closely, but the same happens to me in England now, so it doesn't worry me any longer.

longer.

"From a footballing point of view you cannot help but benefit from playing different kinds of opposition. It's got to broaden your experience and make you a better player."

So how does Robertson view the chances of Forest doing what Liverpool did before them and carry off the European Cup for a second successive season?

"After what we achieved in Europe last season we have got to stand an excellent chance. Not many people had heard of Forest this time last year — but they had after we had beaten Liverpool over two legs

two legs.

"It probably helped us a little last season that we were new boys in Europe but once we had knocked out Liverpool everybody wanted to know what we were like."

"By the time we met Cologne in the Semi-Final, teams knew what to expect but it did not prevent us overcoming the odds and beating the Germans on their own ground.

"It was a close thing though and although we might have the same kind of experience this season we are looking forward to doing well and keeping the trophy in this country."



MORIE BURO SUCCESS TOR BRITAIN? **EUROPEAN CUP**

THE Euro trail gets under way next week, with high hopes of a trophy finding its way to Britain for the first time during the 80's. A British club has won one of the Cups every year except 1974 and 1975 during the 70's and it would be nice to start the decade as the 70's began — with two victorious sides; in 1970 it was Arsenal (Fairs Cup) and Manchester City (ECWC).

British and Irish clubs had mixed fortunes in the First Round draw; some have easy tasks, others dif-

some have easy tasks, others difficult, while one or two clubs face long and demanding journeys. Champions NOTTINGHAM FOREST face another Swedish club and it's unlikely ÖSTERS will be as defensive as Malmö were; let's face it, nobody could be more defensive than Malmö were in Munich last May. Forest have quickly learnt the art of Euro soccer and it would be one of the sensations of the European Cup if sensations of the European Cup if they failed at the first hurdle. Brian Clough's teams make sensations, they're rarely on the receiving end.

LIVERPOOL, strangely, have never played a Russian side in European competition before,

although to be accurate DINAMO TBILISI are in Georgia. It's a long and tiring trip behind the Iron Curtain and Liverpool know they'll probably need a two-goal lead to take to Georgia. It won't be easy. **CELTIC** travel to Europe's least-

EUROPEAN **CUPS PREVIEW**

known country, Albania, to face PARTIZAN TIRANA. Albania, back in the European fold after a few years' absence, is a place few people visit and Billy McNeill could have done without this trip. But he's professional enough to realise tr's a job that has to be done and Celtic's fighting spirit will surely see them through.

This section of the magazine went to press before the outcome

of the Preliminary Round was known, but either DUNDALK or LINFIELD, who drew 1-1 in the first leg, have a great chance to reach Round Two. If they can master HIBERNIAN's sandy Maltese pitch,

RANGERS had a scare against tiny LILLESTROM in the Preliminary Round but we hope The Gers won through to play beaten ECWC Finalists last season FORTUNA DUSSELDORF. Yet John Greig's men set Europe alight last term with victories over Juventus and PSV, so it would be unwise to underestimate them.

The last time ARSENAL played FENERBAHCE there was an almighty punch-up as the Turks lost their tempers. That was a preseason friendly so let's hope the referee is strong for the return leg! Arsenal have what it takes to win, although their squad is still very small by European standards. WREXHAM go to East Germany,

never the easiest of places to get a good result, and 1.FC MAG-DEBURG have plenty of Euro experience. So do Wrexham, though, and this promises to be a very tight tie.

Well-Drilled

WATERFORD will have to be at their best to overcome 1FK GOTHENBURG; Swedish teams are fit and well-drilled. French Cup winners NANTES appear too strong for CLIFTONVILLE.

It would be a disaster if EVER-TON failed against FEYENOORD and they could certainly have had easier opposition than the Dutchmen. The Rotterdammers aren't the force they were, but then Ever-ton haven't been without prob-lems this first month of the

LEEDS will have a much easier path against VALETTA; like Dundalk, their only obstacle will be the

Maltese pitch.
IPSWICH have done well in
Europe in recent seasons and we
can't see SKEID OSLO stopping

Liverpool v Dinamo Thilisi Nottingham Forest v Östers Växjö Partizan Tirana v Celtic Dundalk or Linfield v Hibernian

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS'

Rangers or Lillestrom v Fortuna Dusseldorf Cliftonville v Nantes Wrexham v 1.FC Magdeburg Arsenal v Fenerbahce 1FK Gothenburg v Waterford

U.E.F.A. CUP Sporting Lisbon v Bohemians Valetta v Leeds Ipswich v Skeid Oslo
Dundee U v Anderlecht
Carl-Zeiss Jena v West Brom
Aberdeen v Eintracht Frankfurt Feyenoord v Everton Glenavon v Standard Liege

their progress at such an early stage. With the Dutch pair Mühren and Thijssen in midfield, Ipswich's "Continental" style could make them a force in the U.E.F.A. Cup

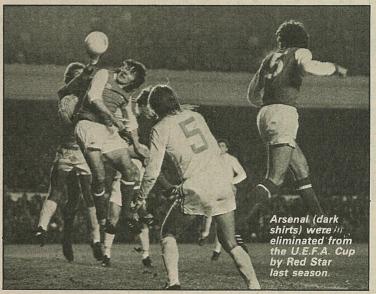
SPORTING LISBON will surely hold too many aces for BOHE-MIANS, while GLENAVON will find the Belgians of STANDARD LIEGE too much.

British clubs haven't come out of the draw too well. ANDERLECHT will be without Dutch winger Robbie Rensenbrink (knee injury), but DUNDEE UNITED know they're in for two titanic tussles. United will tor two titanic tussles. United will attack the Belgians and could surprise them. At this level, though experience counts for a lot and Anderlecht are masters of the ECWC, having won the trophy twice in the last four years.

ABERDEEN face EINTRACHT FRANKFURT and West German opponents are never easy. Fast

opponents are never easy. East German sides present even more problems at times, with travelling behind the Iron Curtain, but WEST BROM should scrape through over the two legs against CARL-ZEISS





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Wembley Sportsmaster Ltd, 14 Harlestone Road, Northampton.

PADDY Mulligan, Republic of Ireland defender released by West Bromwich Albion at the end of last season, has

joined Shamrock Rovers.

He links up again with Johnny Giles, who rescued him from the obscurity of the lower Divisions, when he took him to the Hawthorns from Crystal Palace in 1975.

Mulligan began his career with Rovers before joining Chelsea in 1969. Now, with Mulligan, Giles and Ray Treacy in the team Rovers should have a good chance of winning the Chamitan Chemical Che pionship this season.



FORMER Shelbourne pair Sean Sheehy and Danny Heffernan have joined Finn Harps. The County Donegal club will be Sheehy's fifth League of Ireland club. He wore the colours of Dun-dalk, Bohermians and Thurles Town before in before joining Shelbourne. Sean col-lected championship medals with Bohemians and Dundalk and was Player Manager of Thurles for a

Preston North End fans may also remember the much travelled Dubliner, who had a spell at Deepdale.

PLAYERS ON THE CHEAP

E NGLISH football managers could save themselves a fortune in the transfer market for the price of a boat trip across to

Market for the price of a boat trip across to Scandinavia.

Alan Ball senior, who has spent three years coaching in Sweden and is currently attached to the Stockholm club Djurgarden, reveals a wealth of talent available at harmon prices.

bargain prices.
"There are many good players over here for £100,000 or so, who would do well in

the First Division.
"I mentioned this fact to a few manager's

and Malcolm Allison followed it up.

"A centre back, Aman, who played in the international against England, would be ideal for the Football League. There's also a 6ft 6ins centre forward, who would terrify some of our defences at home."

International referee Clive Thomas has always wanted to officiate in Iceland and Cyprus. His dream has come true. He took charge of the Iceland v Netherlands game on September 5th and goes to Cyprus for the European Cup game between Omonia Nicosia and Red Boys Differdange on October 3rd.

Magleon FARES NOUESTON



ORMER Scottish international manager Ally MacLeod, now boss at Motherwell, could be in serious trouble with the Scottish

MacLeod may be carpeted after startling disclosures in his recently published book in which he says Willie Johnston, who was banned and sent home from the 1978 World Cup after a dope test proved positive, was not the only Scottish player to have Reactivan tablets in his possession during the ill-fated campaign in Argentina.

SFA president Willie Harkness observed angrily: "Something is wrong. Those are not the facts he gave us during the World Cup Finals in South America."

MacLeod, apparently, on the spot by the SFA in Argentina and asked if other players had drugs. Harkness says: "He told us they had not.

"The playing side was the manager's province and it was left to him to conduct the investigation among the players. We accepted his findings and we accepted his word.

Now, according to MacLeod's book, other players were allegedly in the same position as Johnston, who had taken the illegal drug Fencamsamin contained in Reactivan tablets before the game against Peru which the Scots lost

TED'S FIFTH CENTURY

BOURNEMOUTH'S much-travelled striker Ted MacDougall played his 500th Football League game in the match against Newport County at Dean Court on Saturday, 25th August. The Cherries won 3-2, but Ted didn't score.

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers' new £2½ million stand took on paying customers for the first time when Wolves played lpswich in a First Division game last month. Now, the club are preparing to shift the pitch closer to the new stand. the pitch closer to the new stand.

PRAISE for Norwich's manager John Bond from Lawrie McMenemy. The Saints boss beamed: "Bondy is one of our best managers and has done a consistently sound job with meagre resources."

REMI Moses has been elected West Bromwich Albion's "Young Player of the Season" for 1978-79. He commands a midfield role in the Central League team. Remi was born in Manchester.

Lawrie fears 'Them and Us' League

SOUTHAMPTON manager Lawrie McMenemy fears a Super League is developing in the First Division because of the spiralling transfer

Saints boss says: "I can see an elite League of seven or eight clubs breaking away from the rest simply because they can afford to spend £1 million on a

can afford to spend £1 million on a player.

"Nottingham Forest started the ball rolling with Trevor Francis. Others have acquired expensive players after selling to raise the money. If clubs are allowed to carry on with this, very soon all the class players will be with the big teams.

"My club can't compete in this way. We have to find our own players and look at the transfer market in a more

look at the transfer market in a more modest way.

The issue will be discussed at a meeting of managers shortly.

COVENTRY City have been watch-ing Kilmarnock striker John Bourke, who scored 28 goals in the First Division last season.

Bourke is the former goal scoring partner of Coventry striker lan Wallace when both played for Dum-

Roy's good enough

AN England recall for Derby's 31-year-old centre-half Roy McFarland? Coun-ty's Manager Colin Addison says: "It can't be beyond the realms of possibility that he will regain his England place."

HEAR about the full-back who saved two penalties in a match? It happened in August, 1953, when Sheffield Wednesday met Preston North End in the First Divi-sion. Preston's goalkeeper David McIntosh fractured an arm in a goalmouth scrimmage and handed his sweater to left-back Norman Curtis. The deputy 'keeper became the "man of the match", saving two penal-ties, the first from Tom Finney, the second from Jimmy Baxter. Wednesday beat North End 6-0!

'NIJINSKY' QUI

THE moment Colin Bell received the injury that forced him to quit the game last month still haunts the former England and Manchester City midfield player.

Describing the incident in a game nearly four years ago, he says: "I remember that incident all too vividly.
"I have thought about it a million times. As I raced on to a bobbing ball, I had three options. I chose the wrong one."

Bell received a crippling knee injury. He fought courageously to overcome the handicap and even made a comeback to the Manchester City first team last season.

season.

But his effort was in vain — and sadly he announced his retirement.

Bell, aged 33, played 48 times for England between 1968-76. His fluent running earned him the nickname "Nijinsky". The game is the poorer for his retirement but he leaves treasured memories for City and England fans.



BEATTIE WANTS ENGLAND RECALL



POWERFUL defender Kevin Beattie is back in action at Ipswich and chasing an

England recall.

The giant defender has recovered fully from the knee operation he underwent in June on his return from the East Anglian club's tour to the United States.

Now, his firm intention is to win a regular first team place at Portman Road and persuade England manager Ron Greenwood that he is worthy of a 10th international cap, preferably in the number six shirt he has never worn for his

Beattle has another reason to smile, for his wife, Margaret, is expecting their third child in the autumn. Could it be a hat-trick of daughters? Emma, aged four, and Sarah, two, are hoping for a sister, but Kevin and his wife are keeping an

MANCHESTER United (14) and Linfield (13) have had more players capped by Northern Ireland than any other club since

the last War.

But ex-Larne midfield player Brian
Quinn's recent £60,000 transfer to Everton, an all-time record fee between English and Ulster clubs, means the Goodison Park club could threaten their record.

If Quinn appears for Northern Ireland at Tryunn appears for Normern Ireland at full level he would emulate nine other post-War Evertonians, Alex Stevenson, Peter Farrell, Tommy Eglington (all three also capped by Eire), Billy Bingham, Jimmy Hill, Tommy Jackson, Dave Clements, Bryan Hamilton and Peter Scott.

ASTON Villa fans are convinced that there's a jinx on their team's number six shirt. The first three League games produced substitutions for injuries and each time Villa's "number six" was the unfortunate victim.

WEST Bromwich Albion have announced multi-million pound plans to redevelop The Hawthorns. Work should start at the end of the season.

GOALKEEPER George Young of Stirling Albion missed the pre-season training at Annfield. This resulted in suspension and losing his place in the opening

Then along came Rangers to pay £20,000 for him.

Lucky thirteen?

BIRMINGHAM City are hoping history repeats itself. Thirteen years ago they signed two schoolboys named Trevor Fran-

cis and Steve Phillips.

Francis became the first English player to cost £1 million. Phillips went on to play for Northampton and Brentford.

Now, Blues chief scout Don Dorman has snapped-up two more youngsters. Their names? Francis and Phillips. Les Phillips comes from Brixton, London, while John Francis is an East Ender. A BELATED tribute for Sammy Chung, the manager sacked by Wolves last

Burnley forward Steve Kindon, who played at Molineux under Chung, says: "I'm terribly grateful to Sammy for the played at Molineux under chung, says: "I'm terribly grateful to Sammy for the work he did in encouraging and helping me improve my skills. When other players reported at 10.00 a.m., Sammy always had me in an hour before.



suaded from joining a new club on the advice of his wife.

But Sheffield United's Argenti-nian ace Alex Sabella had no hesita-tion in deciding to reject Sunder-land's £500,000 bid for his skills after his wife, Viv, (above) had expressed disenchantment with the North-East.

Mind you, he had little option. with someone as attractive as Viv? Zmmmmmmmm

SOCCER

Aztecs need more fans

JOHAN Cruyff's presence has not had the impact on Los Angeles Aztecs attendances as the club had hoped. He has boosted the average from around 6,000 to just 10,000.

So now the Aztecs owners are putting plan B into operation. They have signed Mexican Sanchez Galindo to try and encourage some of the Latin population in L.A. to turn out for the games. Galindo, 31, is on loan from Club

America of the Mexican First Division and is acknowledged as one of his country's best defenders.

Aztecs coach Rinus Michels says: "We are attempting to build the most interesting team as possible around Johan Cruyff for our

"Galindo will fit very well into these plans. It is very difficult to obtain a player with the ability of Galindo."

The idea of using South American players to attract the Latin fans is not exactly new in Los Angeles. And one that has never been that successful.

You can guarantee 30,000 Latins will turn out for games involving the Mexican national team. But they won't pay to see one of their countrymen performing for an American side.

Ironically, Galindo captained the Mexican team that eliminated the Americans from the 1978 World Cup qualifying competition.

Ladies like the leas

A SURVEY earlier in the season claimed that 40 per cent of women attending soccer matches were attracted by players' legs. Now NASL Commissioner Phil

Woosnam has endorsed this view that sex appeal is a major factor in

soccer's female following.

He says: "About 38 per cent of the people who attended our games last season were women. The soccer player has more sex appeal than athletes in other sports.

"First, soccer players are normal-sized people without major ego problems. Secondly, they are dressed more scantily than other

sports stars.
"In American football and hockey, you can't tell what's under-neath all that bulky equipment they wear."



TULSA goalkeeper Colin Boulton has changed his mind about the quality of play in the States.

He says: "Last year, I said the standard of the American game

was awful and wasn't up to par



with the English Third and Fourth **Divisions**

"But when I went home last winter, I watched a few Third and Fourth Division games and they didn't compare with soccer in the States. It's definitely improving



LORENZ Hilkes of Edmonton broke two toes in a collision with Detroit's Eddie Colquhoun and was told he wouldn't be able to

play for a month. Fed up with sitting it out on the sidelines, Hilkes asked the doctor if there was anything that could be done to speed his recovery. He was told he could return in a week

if they amputated the toes.
"Okay," said Hilkes, "do it." Fortunately, the doctor got cold feet.



GORDON Jago's dream at Tampa Bay is to have a squad so large and varied that he can alter it to suit every occasion.

The former Q.P.R. and Millwall manager says: "Soccer needs specialists for special occasions. Baseball has designated hitters, right or left-handed, whom they can bring in to suit the occasion.

"I intend to build a squad so deep that we can use whatever line-up suits the manner we need to play against a certain team."



ROCHESTER goalkeeper Shep Messing is the highest paid American player in the NASL.

But that's not the only reason why his contract with the Lancers is unique. Under the agreement he made with the club, he doesn't have to show up in Rochester until the day before a home game.

Messing doesn't want to leave his New York home. So he does all his training with New York Apollo of the ASL and flies to Rochester for games.



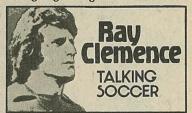
USSIAN boots will tramp the turf of Anfield next week for the first time ever, when we meet in the first-leg of the European Cup opening round.

It's amazing that in 14 years of playing in Continental Cup tournaments we have never before been drawn against a team from Russia.

Our opponents are the current Champions, Dinamo Tbilisi. Their name was completely new to me. The only others I'm familiar with are Moscow Dynamo, chiefly because their memorable friendly matches against the likes of Chelsea and Arsenal after the Second World

him with a good idea of how they are likely to perform at Anfield.

Sides from Iron Curtain countries tend to be physically strong, very fit, with a set pattern of play they find difficult to change when things are going wrong.



War - and Dinamo Kiev from the Ukraine.

So I'm expecting another new experience in a game stimulating for its tremendous variety.

Whereas many foreign visitors are unsettled playing in front of our large five-figure crowd, I don't expect it to happen to the Russians simply because they are accustomed to 100,000 plus attendances in their country. Unlike England, where crowds have declined owing to the many other counter-attractions brought by an affluent society, Russia can boast of big match-going support throughout their League.

Before the game at Anfield, we'll be briefed on Tbilisi — their overall style, the strengths and weaknesses of each individual player — by our roving "spy" Tom Saunders, who apart from running the rule over foreign opposition also doubles as our Youth Development Officer.

Tom has spent a week in Moscow, watching Tbilisi play two away games, which should have provided

The only exception in my experience was Dynamo Dresden from East Germany, whom we beat 5-1 at Anfield in 1977, and struggled to hold to a 2-1 win over us in the return at their ground. Dresden have several extremely skilful players and are an imaginative team.

We never take a result for granted at Liverpool, but we're confident of winning at home and it's our aim to get something like three goals in front without conceding any. Such a lead will stand us in good stead for

an away leg certain to present us with off-field problems. First, the travelling, which in-volves changing jets at Moscow to reach our destination, with the likelihood of being held up at Customs for an overlong period. A war of nerves that we've become accustomed to through playing in so many Iron Curtain countries.

Secondly, and more importantly, the poor food - no different from that eaten by the locals — that will be served up to us in Russia.

I fancy it will bring back,



memories of our trip to Trabzonspor, in Turkey, a few years back, when many of us took the precau-tion of avoiding upset stomachs by living on a diet of chocolate.

Definitely not the best preparation for an important match. And another factor against us is the time difference of six hours, which means the evening kick-off will actually be in the middle of the day for us. So you can see why we need to go to Tbilisi with a handsome lead.

We lost 1-0 to Trabzonspor, but that was in a first-leg match and we succeeded in winning 3-0 at Anfield to go through to the Quarter-Finals of the European Cup against St.-Etienne in 1977.

The draw this year was much kinder to us than last, when we clashed with Nottingham Forest, who beat us 2-0 at the City Ground and defied all our efforts to score in the return.

There was no chance of the draw being repeated this year because Forest, as European Cup holders, were seeded like us.

It was unreal going through the rest of last season without serious foreign competition, something that's become part of the Liverpool ing on the venue.

There was no basis for his slur on both sets of supporters. The matches between the clubs — in League and League Cup Final have been trouble-free; Liverpool fans won praise from the authorities in Rome when we first won the European Cup there in 1977; and the Forest fans went on to earn credit for their good behaviour in Munich in May.

Supporters of British clubs have been guilty of hooliganism - and worse — while on the Continent. But the fans of Forest and Liverpool do not number amongst them.

League with Leeds United at Elland Road on the preceding Saturday.

My last memory of their ground is an ecstatically happy one, for it was there we broke the record of 67 points to win the League and also got the goals to qualify for the £50,000 prize offered by The Sun and Corals the bookmakers.

Leeds set the record in the days when they ranked as our greatest rivals, under Don Revie.

Since that memorable night, Leeds have lost Tony Currie to Q.P.R. and Frankie Gray to Forest but gained Alan Curtis from Swansea, the team led by my former team-mate John Toshack, and Brian Greenhoff from Manchester United.

I have a great deal of respect for Alan, a dangerous striker, who attracted attention from several First Division clubs, including my own, before moving to Leeds.

Partnered up-front by either John Hawley or Ray Hankin, he's going to be a heavily marked man by all defences.

I admire the manager, Jimmy Adamson, a shrewd judge of a player now obviously hunting for a replacement for Tony Currie. And knowing him, he won't be paying the sort of ludicrously inflated fees that some other bosses are flinging around and which can only harm the game in long run.

The match, between a team from Lancashire and one from Yorkshire, always has the flavour of a Roses battle, and fans will be flocking down the M62 to the ground.

It'll be a hard-fought 90 minutes, at the end of which we'll be content to bring away a point.

Meet me again next week -

way of life, and friendly games, such as those against Bremen and Saudi Arabia, were no substitute.

Being knocked out by Forest, one of the most sickening experiences of my life, robbed us of the chance of retaining the Cup for a third successive year. But it was some consolation that they went on to win it and keep the trophy in England.

However, we're doubly determined to bring the trophy to Anfield again. It's not as heavy as the U.E.F.A. one, but it's definitely the largest I've ever held. Perhaps this season the fans will

see the Liverpool/Forest Final many looked forward to before last season's incredible First Round draw. One reporter disappointed me by holding the opposite point of view, saying that the rest of Europe were dreading that the two English clubs would meet in the Final, as it would mean Malmo to win the Cup, are drawn against another Swedish side, Oesters Vaxjo, in the First Round. I can't see Brian Clough's men having any difficulties disposing of a side cer-tain to have been demoralised by the draw. The Swedes' only hope is to

It's ironic that Forest, who beat

attack and to redeem their country's honour, besmirched by the ultradefensive, unadventurous display by Malmo in what should have been a showpiece Final in Munich.

A lot of people have asked me whether Liverpool hold a function to which the visiting team and its officials are invited after an evening tie at Anfield.

Apart from shaking hands with our opponents at the end of a match, we seldom make any social contact whatever. Occasionally we'll bump into a few while having celebratory drinks in a club - but the language barrier makes it difficult to communicate.



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DURBAN: The last time our teams met was in 1976-77 when you were fresh up from Division Two and we were on our way down. Now we are in the First. I suppose we are similar clubs in other ways, too. Neither are what you'd call a fashionable outfit and we both have to make do on small gates.

DICKS: That's true. But your club has a solid post-War record of First Division football, where our last period of First Division soccer before our return in 1976 was before the First World War! And when we came up, we only had one player with any First Division experience. That was Paul Cheeseley, who'd had five games with Norwich.

DURBAN: Half of my squad have played in the First Division before and the others like Brendan O'Callaghan have appeared in many League games, albeit in the lower Divisions. They should all play better in the First because players generally respond to the atmosphere and the better games of the top Division.

DICKS: The experience in your side should prove invaluable because the first season back is always the hardest. A lot of our young players have developed into First Division players in their own right over the past three years. But you must have players who know what the First Division is about in that initial year. That's why I bought people like Norman Hunter, Chris Garland and Joe Royle.

DURBAN: For all that, I don't believe in talking about consolidation when you get promoted. If you talk about that too much, it gets into the players minds that if they survive, they will have done well. That way, the gap between



CROSS TOLK

'Small' clubs big ideas

Managers of clubs who meet at Ashton Gate on Saturday (September 15th) discuss problems of being lesser lights of Division One.



"We've got to win our fans back" ALAN DICKS (Bristol C)



'We want an average home gate of 26,000' ALAN DURBAN (StokeC)

the First and Second Divisions can become as much a mental barrier as anything else.

DICKS: I think the First is a very strong Division and you have to keep on top of your game just to stay in it. I take your point about consolidation but for most promoted sides, staying up is considered almost a success.

DURBAN: Nottingham Forest came out of the Second Division and won the title first time just by buying three class players. They not only won it, but well. I think that's the secret. Not to change the team too much, but to buy quality players.

DICKS: It would be good for the game if yourselves or one of the other promoted sides could do something. I have a fancy for Crystal Palace because the formula that's worked for them is like the one that projected Leeds from a Second Division club to a top team in the First. They have a lot of youngsters who have matured fast. I would like to see a new side emerge to add some spice to the game. The domination of Rangers and Celtic in Scotland must make things boring and it's becoming that way here with Liverpool and Forest.

DURBAN: They are the obvious candidates for the title again. I

think we will do well just to live with them. I fancy Arsenal as the dark horses. Palace are a lot like us — they have plenty of youngsters. So I think their time will be in three or four years rather than now.

DICKS: We had a great start last season and were very strong before Christmas. Then we lost a game in icy conditions that we didn't go into in the right frame of mind, and after that, we lost six more games on the trot. It's difficult to recover from a run like that because everyone gets so depressed.

DURBAN: Over the three years, you've done very well in buying the more experienced type of player and now you're settling in to the First Division. So you've got a basis for the future.

DICKS: It would be nice to think that people regard us as an established First Division side now. But if we really want to make a bid for the Championship, which is obviously the pinnacle, we've got to improve our standards all round. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to spend money on building a new stand as you have at Stoke. We've had to make players our top priority.

DURBAN: We were pleased to get the new stand but now we have to fill it with people. It's going to take time to do that, but I'm hoping we can get an average of around 26,000 this season. That would be a good start.

DICKS: We are getting less fans now than when we were doing well in the Second Division. We're in a catchment area where we should do very well. But in a sense, we've got to win our crowd back. The only way we can do that is by our performances on the field.



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SOME clubs seem haunted by the spectre of bad luck. They just cannot escape the fickle finger of fate as it points the way to despair and destruction.

St. Johnstone manager Alex Stuart must wonder if his club has done something terribly wrong to have someone up there not liking them. Certainly he hasn't had far to look recently for his problems.

He was delighted a few months ago with the encouraging reports om The States about his striker Walker McCall, who was playing for San Diego Sockers and was wowing the fans over there with outstanding performances and a

run of goals.
What happened? McCall broke a leg and will be out of action for

several months.

Stuart also received a blow when former Aberdeen goalkeeper Andy Geoghegan informed him he was quitting football to join the local police force. While the Saints boss scrambled to get an experi-enced 'keeper for the season's kick-off he received the good news that Geoghegan would be available for three months before taking up his duties outside football.
What happened? Geoghegan

broke an arm against Stirling

Albion!

"It's a bit of a headache," admits Stuart. "I thought I had ample time to fix up a 'keeper when Andy returned. Then I was left with an

Stuart got all the cash that was available to him — all of £15,000!
— and made a bid for Hamish McAlpine, the Dundee United keeper who had lost his first team place to Peter Bonetti, but he was told it wasn't enough.

The Saints boss, though, refuses to panic. He is known as one of soccer's honest men and refuses to comment on some matters rather than tell even a little white lie. Other managers don't appear to bother too much about maintaining the same sort of standard!

Stuart was brave on the field and he is brave off it, too. He knew he had a huge challenge on his hands when he went to Ayr United three seasons ago to replace Ally MacLeod, who had gone to Aber-

MacLeod was "King of Ayr" and taking over from him wasn't easy, but Stuart eventually overcame that battle and left Somerset Park and quit football for a spell.

He didn't leave them in trouble when he decided to move out. That decision is just like the man. When Jim Storrie left St. John-stone last season Stuart was their natural choice and he was involved in one of the strangest deals of the



season.

Earlier in the season, while manager of Ayr United, Stuart turned down a bid of £70,000 from Motherwell for Walker McCall.

When he moved to Muirton he scraped together £25,000 and offered it to the Somerset Park board for McCall. To his surprise and delight, they accepted!

Bad luck has since set in but

Stuart is still battling through. St. Johnstone will never be a giant in Scottish soccer, but they still have a small and loyal following.

Muirton was once a place feared by the Old Firm and Stuart is adamant and confident that those days will return.

Certainly they deserve a break or two. Of the right sort, of course.

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'I didn't get dropped for fun



AST season I kicked off as cap-Ltain of a Premier League side after winning a First Division Championship medal the previous

I was on top of the world. Things couldn't have been better, but I found that soccer is often a strange and unpredictable game. I ended that same season as deposed captain of my club and in the reserves.

What a transformation. But let's get this straight right now. I'm not arguing with the boss, Benny Rooney. He is a marvellous manager and certainly knows his job. I've got a lot of time for Mr.

Rooney. When he told me he was leaving me out I had a think about it and realised the gaffer wouldn't drop me just for the fun of it.

He thinks about the game. He was changing the team a bit and I by DAVIE HAYES (Morton)

had to agree with him. My game had shaded slightly. I had gone off the boil. It happens to everyone.

My timing wasn't there in the tackle. Things just weren't coming off and I knew it, too. Mr. Rooney gave my place to Jimmy Millar, normally a midfield player, and I was the first to congratulate Jimmy on his displays in the first

He is a good all-round player, but I don't want him to get used to that right-back spot. I think he is a good first team player. He can play elsewhere, though . . . I want my position back!

It's going to be a bit of a battle. No one walks into this Morton first team. No one is guaranteed a place in the top side. Mr. Rooney plans on a game-by-game basis and if you're not producing the goods, you're out. It's as simple as that.

I've never been known as a shirker. I've always tried to give 100 per cent. I wouldn't say I was the prettiest player to watch. I just try to do my job honestly and earnestly

My main job is in defence, but I like to surge forward and support the front players. And I thoroughly enjoyed my stint as captain of the club. It meant a lot to me when Mr. Rooney told me he was making me skipper.

I've been with Morton since

leaving school. People might think I'm a veteran because I have been at Cappielow for around a decade, but I'm not ready to pick up my old age pension just now, thank you!

I feel I've got a lot to offer and I want to get out there and prove it. enjoy my soccer and playing in the Premier Division is a great experience. Playing in the experience. Playing in the reserves, though, is a different world. There is little or no atmosphere. There is no motivation.

The first team is where I want to stay and I'm ready to fight all the way for that place. Nothing will be taken for granted.

The happiest moment in my career so far was scoring against Airdrie on the night we clinched promotion to the Premier League. We struggled that night and were 1-0 down with not long to go when I hit the equaliser.

After that Airdrie caved in and we won 3-1 to make absolutely certain of the Championship. That was a great night. We celebrated at Cappielow and I want to join in on those celebrations again.

I won't be doing that as a reserve. I'm at a stage in my career where the reserves should be a place for testing an injury or some-

thing like that.
Mr. Rooney is a fair man and I'm going to try to prove to him that the only team a certain Davie Hayes should play for is the Morton first team. Wish me luck!

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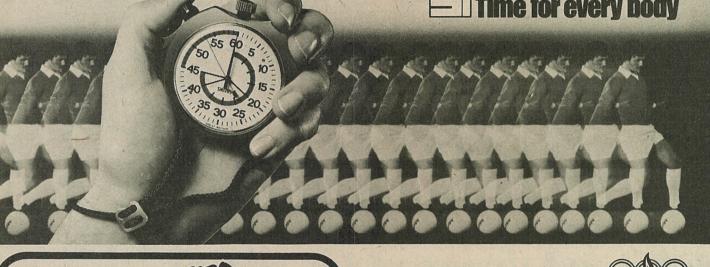
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IT'S ALL PROGRESS ON WESTERN FRONT

THE West Country has had little success to cheer in the last few years. Plymouth Argyle, Exeter City and Torquay United are three clubs that cover a huge area of

the country, but bring little joy to their supporters. Yet the West Country produced Britain's first £1 million footballer, Nottingham Forest's Trevor Francis, and also started Ipswich and England centre-forward Paul Mariner on his soccer career.

So why is it local clubs in the area are still in the doldrums and haven't been able to reach the First Division — and find real success? Here, the managers of all three West Country clubs talk about their situations and prospects for the future — and try to analyse what has gone wrong in the past.

Mike Green

(Torquay

Utd)

Bobby Saxton (Plymouth Argyle)



HE West Country is not a true footballing area; certainly not in the sense that Man-chester, Birmingham or London are. People might enjoy their football down here but they are never fanatical about it as fans in those major cities are and always have been. That is a crucial difference.

At Torquay, there are a lot of retired people with other things to do than go and watch football. We believe people can take or leave the sport which isn't the kind of attitude you want in the town if you're looking to get ahead and enjoy a successful future.

Plymouth folk are more passionate about their football and I reckon the crowds would return there, if they were to become successful again. But Bobby has a fair amount of work to do to get things on the right lines, as far as I can

At Torquay United I've been spending my first two years in charge trying to get things straightened out the way I want them. I expect this season to be my best at the club because I now have almost all the players I want. It's

taken a couple of years.
I'd agree with what Bobby said to a certain extent about players joining West Country clubs. I wouldn't have thought Plymouth would have had such a problem but as far as Exeter and ourselves are concerned, players from other parts of the country certainly think we're

completely tucked away, miles from anywhere.
It is, therefore, very hard to get players and that has held up the progress of West Country football. Our facilities are not grand but it's a nice compact ground and we can certainly improve. My first year here I spent just trying to stop the slide and believe I have achieved that. We're looking ahead with much greater optimism these days.

We are never going to get a massive ground but we could get into the Third Division and do well. Exeter did it and that's my ambition now. This season I am much more confident about the whole thing but we still need a few more

PEOPLE have been talking about the potential at Plymouth for years — but to a large extent, it has been talk. We had one terrific season in 1974 when we reached the Semi-Finals of the League Cup and were runners-up in the Third Division. But since then, times have been difficult.

But despite the talk, the potential is enormous down here and I knew that as a former player, when I was invited to become manager. knew what could be achieved at Home Park and that was why I was so excited to take on the job.

I suppose it has been a lean few years for the West Country in general, but it is a huge area. Exeter, on the other hand, won promotion two years ago and further afield, Bristol City almost got into Europe last season. So, on the fringes,

things have happened.
I would like to see us reach the Second Division and then start building for the First. The city could do with a First Division club for it is easily big enough. But who knows what the future holds?

One of the problems for all clubs in the West Country area, is getting recognition. I remember that even in 1974, we still didn't get that much attention from the media. People also tend to think we're out on a limb down here and that has held up our progress. I know of hundreds of players who have said 'Oh, I wouldn't go that far to play for anyone.' If you're a manager, it is hard to get good players to forget that and join you.

You will only improve by attracting quality players and if those players don't want to come

down here, you have a problem. I think all the West Country sides have suffered from that in

The future? Well, I'm ambitious to break into the First Division and I believe I can achieve that aim at this club. If I get the players I require, it could happen quickly. If I don't, it will obviously take longer. Only time will tell but I do know this city and the facilities we can offer are crying out for it to happen here.

Brian Godfrey (Exeter City)



THE West Country has never been a great footballing area. You don't seem to get that many players coming out of the area although there have been occasional exceptions to that rule. There is a lot of junior football played here, though, so perhaps it is surprising we don't

produce more talent.

At Exeter City we are gradually building for the future. Last season, we finished in the highest position we have ever done — ninth in the Third Division. That was very encouraging

for the future.

We want to do better still this time and try and reach the Second Division within a couple of years. But we do need more support. We had an average of around 4,500 last season and if you're trying to buy better players to take you into the Second, you really need good players — so that people must provide the finance to buy them by coming to support us.

Our crowds are simply not big enough. But

attendances at West Country clubs have been quite poor in recent years. Even Bristol City found they didn't get as many as they had hoped for, when they got into the First Division a few seasons ago, neighbours Bristol Rovers don't get good gates either so that people are not really supporting sides to ensure the out-

standing success of any club.
Out catchment area is big enough — 90,000 is the population of Exeter. The nearest club is almost 30 miles away so we ought to attract more supporters. If people want better, more successful sides they must be prepared to come out and support them. That is the only way the

A side like Plymouth might get good gates if they did well. If they achieve success, people would go there. But at the moment, I'd like to see Torquay join us in the Third Division as that would help to build more interest in local derbies.

The future? The area needs a top-class club. We don't have a tradition of success but we have a good set-up these days and I'm hoping we can make it work.

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ANSWERS

1. A penalty (c). Z. Yes. 3. Throw-in for the defender (b). 4. No. 5. A penalty-kick (b) against the defender for hand ball. I remember refereeing the FA. Cup Semi-Final against the defender for hand ball. I remember refereeing the FA. Cup Semi-Final gave a goal for Everton but in my opinion Hamilton had handled the ball to score. The final decision must be left to the referee.

Manager Nobby Stiles is

THE PRINE

AN Preston North End be this Season's surprise side in Division Two? The suggestion could be considered idiotic at first sight, taking into account one crucial

The sale of Preston's highly rated striker Martin Robinson to Manchester City for an astonishing £750,000, seemed to end any promotion hopes Preston might have cherished for this season.

Robinson was a key member of Nobby Stiles' squad and no one rated the young striker any higher

than Stiles himself.
So surely the departure of Robinson, plus that of Mike Elwiss, who left for Crystal Palace just over a year ago, has damaged Preston's hopes. But that might just be writing-off Stiles' men too soon.

Crucial

Nobby Stiles himself, doesn't write-off his side. "We are a young side but people should remember one crucial fact," he said. "We sold Mark Lawrenson and Gary Williams when we were in the Third Division — and still won promo-tion. Maybe it could happen in this case; I don't know."

Stiles doesn't feel he has to justify the sale of Robinson. "The plain fact was that Martin wanted to go. He was very keen to play in the First Division and when the the First Division and when this offer came along, we felt we couldn't stand in his way.

'I don't blame him in the slightest because I am ambitious, too and I would have wanted to join Manchester City if I had been in his position. You cannot penalise people for being ambitious because I am always saying to my players they should want to get to

the top.
"Of course, we will miss a player like Martin, we're bound to. But then everyone said we would miss Mark Lawrenson and Gary Williams - and we did to a certain extent. But others came through and we still won promotion to the Second Division. Maybe that's an

omen for the future, I don't know."

Cautious Stiles refuses to discuss Preston's promotion pros-pects. "I take each game as a separate challenge," he says. "I never ever look ahead weeks or months and say if we do this, we might do that. It's just not me." Nevertheless, Stiles is pinning his faith in his young players. "We



are a young side and we have to learn," he says. "But I am optimistic the youngsters will come through and learn well. If that hap-

pens, we may have a bright future.
"I have money available and financially, this club is in a sound position. The directors have told me I can have the money available from the Robinson deal for new

players, and that's nice to know.
"At the moment, however, I'm
happy with what I have got. I
certainly don't intend to go out
and buy loads of players I don't
really need — nor will I pay hugely
inflated transfer fees as otherpeople might be doing,. That isn't
me at all."

Stiles certainly can't be accused of simply selling rather than strengthening his team.
"In the last 12 months, I have signed eight players," he says. "That's why I'm now happy with what I've got. We have a lot more depth to our side these days and he squad is hig enough and has the squad is big enough and has sufficient quality to weather any injury crisis

Those players cost us £300,000 so we have already spent a lot. But I never have believed and I never will believe that making big money

buys proves anything."
Ex-England and Manchester
United hero Stiles is fast making himself an impressive reputation inside the game. He won promotion for Preston and even last season, when his side were having a bad start and struggling near the bottom of the Second Division, refused to concede that his attack-

ing style of football was wrong.
"We stuck to it and things worked out for us," he said. "But you have to believe in some things

and stick to those beliefs ... even when the going gets a bit tough. "This season, we had a good start, winning 3-0 at Charlton, 1-0 at home to Newcastle and drew 1-1 with Swansea at Deepdale. But anything can happen in a long campaign and in a Second Division which, in my view, is more open than it has been for years. Anyone of about a dozen sides could put it together and do well. So fore-casting is definitely out."

IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £5 for the Star letter — £2 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Adrian Dobbyne of New Wimpole near Royston, Herts, Who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

MONEY RULES SOCCER

AS a Norwich City supporter, I was delighted to hear the club had rejected the £1 million bid by Manchester City for Kevin Reeves.

At 22, Kevin has at least 12 years of First Division football ahead of him, but even so, he isn't worth a million, nor is anyone else.

Arsenal had the right price when they offered £450,000 for Kevin in

May. How Big Mal can see to double that value in three months is beyond me.

It's a pity the big clubs are writing out massive cheques for players because the smaller clubs just can't compete. Having said that, it is wrong that these smaller clubs should ask such astronomical fees for players, some of whom have never played in Division One before.

Money is completely dominating the game and soon many more clubs will have severe financial problems.

It is up to the managers and directors to get together and hammer out a new transfer code to stop people like Allison, Clough and Sexton making a mockery of the present system.

The damage was done when Clough paid £1 million for Trevor Francis. Let's face it - no one HAS to pay inflated fees, but I can see a situation when the top players will be too expensive for anyone to buy.

Bell Tribute

OVER the past few months Manchester City have lost some fine players, such as Kidd, Owen, Barnes, Hartford and Watson. However, their biggest loss has been that of Colin Bell.

Whereas the transferred players did not really have their hearts in the club, Bell was totally dedicated to City, fighting day in, day out, for over three years to regain full fitness.

It pains me to see how the media has forgotten Colin Bell, so please print this message: Thank you, Colin, goodbye and good luck. The football world is a poorer place without you.

KEVIN PUCKERING, GREENFORD.

 At his peak, Colin was one of the best all-round midfield players I've ever seen, a midfielder who could be relied upon for his share of goals. How Ron Greenwood would like one of his present schemers to weigh-in with the number of goals Bell scored.

Shrewsbury Tops

YOUR reader Andrew Murphy wrote in SHOOT that "hardly anyone noticed Swansea's success in winning the Third Division title last season." The reason they didn't was because Shrewsbury Town were Champions, not Swansea. Even Watford finished above The Swans.

JIM COLHOUN, HORNCASTLE.

Our error when re-typing the letter to our printers. Apologies to all concerned.



After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Coventry City striker. Answers on Page 48.

1		2	3		4		5		6	
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29					30			0	0	31
32		33		34		35).		36	
37			0	38					39	

ACROSS:-

- (1) Tony -, Nottingham Forest striker.
 (7) --adow Lane, Notts County.
- (8) Steele, Brighton goalkeeper. 10) Nickname of Everton. (3 & 7) (12) Holland's score in the 1978 World Cup Final against
- Argentina. (13) Transfer of the ball between
- players.
 (15) Dyn -- o Kiev, European side.
- (16) Lifted up. (18) Eleven blending as one! (20)
- One kind of free-kick. Pet----chola-(Crystal Palace). (22)Make 16 Across another way
- from the omissions.

 (24) Alex B--c-, of Preston.
 surname of a P.N.E. player?
- Happening perhaps shown in the programme.
- Jimmy -, Liverpool midfield player.
- Dave Tho -- s, Everton winger (30) Graham - , Arsenal midfield
- player. Walks laboriously. Road, ground of Huddersfield
- (35)
- Number of clubs in the Scottish Premier Division.
- Glent -- an; Irish League club. (39) Exclamation from John Wark!

DOWN:-

- (1) Humorous fan, perhaps.(2) Sign; portending the outcome of
- the game, for instance.
- Ascertained.
- (4) Position which stops continuance of play.
 (5) The role of Alan Rough, for
- example.
- Fail to score.
- (9) Descriptive of all who buy SHOOT.
- Park, ground of The Pilgrims. (14) Area allocated for a new
- ground, perhaps.
 Try.
 Bank. Ground of Lincoln City.
- (17)
- David N---y of Dundee United. Tony --rri- of Queens Park (19)
- (21) Ra ngers.
- (23) The start of the name of Newcastle United's ground.

 — Park; ground of The
- (26)Valiants.
 (28) Dropped from the team in a
- manner of speaking?
 --- ton Gate, Bristol City's
- ground. (33) Keith P--tin of Cardiff City. (34) -l-van Bratislava European
- Cup-Winners' Cup winners, 1969.
- (36) -in-Zoff; famous Italian player.

In only his second Bundesliga game for Werder Bremen. England centre-half Dave Watson was sent-off for allegedly violent conduct. He could hardly have had a worse start to his career in West Germany. DIRK KÖSTER went along to see Dave in Bremen to talk about the how he's settling in.

This week

Werder Bremen

its rubbish. I'm as fit as I've ever been and have no fears at all about my age. If I had done, I wouldn't have left City, where I had three years of my contract to run.

"Now we're in our own home

I'm happy. The people at the nearby British Army base have helped me and the fans have given me a warm reception. The only difference about the supporters is that City has more of them, although the atmosphere at our stadium is first-class.

"I'm having German lessons regularly and already I've picked up a little of the language. I haven't spoken to Kevin Keegan very much because our phone has only just been connected. I'm looking forward to playing against him when Bremen meet HSV."

Watson hasn't found too many differences between English football and the German game.

"I'd been to Germany two or three times before. My first impression was how fast they drive on the autobahns! As I'm playing sweeper now as opposed to centre-half, I don't have a man to mark.

The build-up is slower here and you see fewer long passes than in England.

"The training is basically the same."

Watson has been hoping his suspension would not cost him his England place against Denmark

"Before I joined Bremen I spoke to Ron Greenwood and he said my chances would not be jeopardised. There is a clause in my contract which stipulates release for all competitive games and others if Bremen don't have a match."

'I wouldn't sending-off and find out ve been sent-off in England' T was the 35th minute of Werder Bremen's game against 1860 Munich. Dave Watson, as he did for Manchester City, left his defen-sive post as Bremen were awarded a corner. The 31-year-old star takes up the story . . . "After the corner I was running

back towards my own goal. Bitz, the Munich player, was ahead of me and knocked the ball across my The incident that earned Watson the red card. He places his hands path. I chased it and the two of us over the face of Bitz and pushes collided. him away. Bitz, apparently, has a "As I was getting up, he came over towards me and I sensed he reputation for being a play-actor and it certainly appears that Watson did not hit him. The was going to do something, so I pushed him away. I didn't thump him; I spread my hands and gave referee obviously still regarded this as violent conduct and the him a shove. England star was ordered off. The next thing I knew the in only his second Bundesliga

referee was pulling out his red card. I couldn't believe it. Many things flashed through my mind

a long suspension ... how wrong the referee was.

"I can't say if another German had pushed Bitz as I did, HE would have been sent-off. What I do know is that had the incident happened in England I would have stayed on the field. Pushing and shoving is all part of the game. Take away physical contact and football will lose some of its competitiveness.

'I'm not a violent player and there were no malicious intentions when I touched Bitz. I suppose I've

learned a lesson the hard way."
For the record, Watson was the 106th player to be sent-off in the Bundesliga, which started 16 years ago, and ironically, the three previous Bremen stars shown the red card were also sweepers, where Watson now plays rather than

Even so, Dave has no regrets about going to Germany. "Malcolm Allison had arrived at Manchester City and things weren't going as I hoped they would go, so it was the right time to move on. "I had offers from English and

American clubs, but Bremen's was

Upon arriving in Bremen, there were whispers that at 31 and £100,000 Watson must have something wrong with him . . . he was either too old or too cheap.

"The newspaper which printed this story, Bild, is well-known for





HEN Asa Hartford left Nottingham Forest for Everton so sensationally last month, my immediate thought was: "Heck, he's had TWO transfers in a matter of weeks and I can't even get ONE."

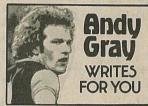
Then along came Wolves just a matter of days after Asa's departure from Nottingham. As you can imagine, a lot has happened to me in the past week or so and I'll be discussing it in detail in my next column. In the meantime, I'd like to take this opportunity to go through some of the background to events of early September.

It was suggested that I should have proved my fitness before submitting my transfer request. I take the point, but I didn't want to deceive or use Villa. To have done that would not have been honest and I didn't want to pretend all was well. Anyway, while I may have to prove my fitness, I hope I don't have to prove my ability because I think my goalscoring statistics speak for themselves.

The £1 million fee mentioned in the Press is ridiculous because no. player is worth that amount. Mind you, if Second Division players are going for £700,000 then I can understand Villa asking more for me.

These big fees are ruining the game. I know it isn't possible to put a ceiling on fees, but something must be done soon. If there was a ceiling of, say, £500,000, I wonder if I would have been snapped up right

Clubs have to sell before they can



buy and things are getting out of hand. Smaller clubs can't compete ... unless they sell their star players to raise the cash, but that defeats the whole object.

Ron Saunders faced an awkward problem with John Gidman and myself. The Villa boss wanted a settled side, so it's no use playing transfer-listed stars. Yet surely Giddy and myself could have strengthened the Villa team? I respected the manager's decision either way; it wasn't an easy one for him to make.



Giddy and I did play in a five-aside game at an open night in front of about 8,000 fans and each time either of us touched the ball there was a lot of booing.

This is understandable. course, it upset me a little as nobody likes to be booed. I like to think I've given Villa fans a lot of pleasure over the past four years and Giddy even more so as he's been here for nine years. Still, I suppose I can't expect much else, although I have had a lot of encouragement from some fans.

There is no bad feeling between the manager and I. The other players never said much. We respect each other and they knew I would always give 100 per cent when selected.

At 23, I'm sure there are plenty of goals left in me. I haven't thought too much about other clubs. Need-



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less to say, there are some clubs just about any pro would love to join. I know the number of sides who can afford me is limited . . . so I'm just keeping my fingers crossed.

I was absolutely staggered at the Asa Hartford news. Who would have thought he'd leave Forest after just three games to join Everton? It makes you wonder . . .

I wouldn't criticise Brian Clough and Peter Taylor as their track record over the years has been impeccable. If it became obvious Asa wasn't going to fit into Forest's plans, it was best for club and player to get things sorted out sooner rather than later.

Staying with transfers I was interested to see Jim McLean, my former manager at Dundee United, saying he'd like to see a ban on Scottish players being transferred until they were around 27. Jim is frustrated that having built a first-class side he is having to sell the likes of Ray Stewart, David Narey and Graeme Payne.

Jim's plan will never come about

Jim's plan will never come about as you can't stop players bettering themselves. Anyway, I'm not convinced gates would be that much better even if the stars stayed at home.

I have been interested with the progress of Crystal Palace. Villa had three great tussles against them in the League Cup last season, drawing at Villa Park (1-1) and at Selhurst Park (0-0) before winning the second replay 3-0 at Coventry.

Palace pulverised Villa for almost the entire 90 minutes at Selhurst Park in the second match. Allan Evans was sent-off and we all had to battle to survive.

I said in SHOOT after the games that I thought Palace would do well in the First Division and they're certainly doing that. For such a young side I'm very impressed by them. Terry Venables has made two shrewd signings in Gerry Francis and Mike Flanagan, but I bet the main reason Palace went up is my mate John Burridge, a fine goal-keeper.

Budgie and I were together at Villa and in those crucial last games, I'm sure he steadied the youngsters and ensured they kept their heads. Budgie is one of soccer's characters and no player anywhere can work harder at his game.

I always hope he phones me to save my phone bill. Budgie is a great talker . . .

Budgie is a soccer fanatic. I heard a story that he even watches television holding a football, but I think that's a slight exaggeration. Even so, I know his wife has to be very understanding. Most players relax when they come home after training — as often as not Budgie will do extra training in his garden or in the house.

He has an impressive record of clean sheets, although I've taken a few quid off him in bets . . . and hope to take even more in the future!

Join me again in two weeks,

And Ged

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO

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FOR EVERY LETTER **PUBLISHED**

Liverpool's worst season

What was Liverpool's worst-ever

PATRICK O'TOOLE,

EIRE

Why, are you an Everton supporter or something, Patrick?
But, seriously, even though Liverpool are nowadays a match for any club-side in the world, they haven't always been all-conquering.

Still, they've never deigned to play below Second Division status — and they've never finished below 11th position there (1954-55).

<u>Unbeaten</u> Queen's Park

Is it true Queen's Park once went several years without losing a game?

SUSAN EDWARDS, MALVERN

Quite right, Susan, just on nine altogether — and the first seven of those without conceding a single goal.
 Mind you, this was before the Scottish League came into being, and not all that

number of games were played in those

bygone days, though they played the

top teams of the time.
So it was still a remarkable perform-

ance which went like this.

Queen's Park were formed in 1867 -Queen's Park were formed in 1867—and no goal was scored against them until Vale of Leven got one on 16th January, 1875. The first club actually to defeat them was Wanderers, the top English club of those days, on 5th February, 1876.

Queen's Park, incidentally, won the Scottish Cup ten times between its start, in 1874, and 1893.

Wolves teenager

Who is the youngest player ever to play for Wolves in a competitive first team match? TYRONE NEWLAND, WEST MIDLANDS.

WEST MIDLANDS.

● A 14-year-old lad named Buchanan

— I believe his first name was Colin —
takes that distinction, Tyrone.

This was for Wolves v. West Bromwich on 26th September, 1942 — but, as
this was a Wartime regional Football
League North game, it doesn't count in
the official records.

Youngest player ever to appear in a
full peacetime Football League match is
Albert Geldard — 15 years/156 days old
when he played for Bradford v. Millwall
(Div. Two) on 16th September, 1929.

Champions debut

I'm an ardent Indonesian supporter of Liverpool, and would like to know the result of their first League game?

PATRICK AEKINS, INDONESIA.

It was a 2-0 Second Division away win over Middlesbrough Ironopolis — no connection with the present Middles-brough club — on 2nd September, 1893,

And, even in those early days, Liver And, even in those early days, Liverpool were a force to be reckoned with. They gained promotion at first attempt with a final eight-point lead at the top of the table — with an undefeated League season of 22 wins, and six draws, in their 28 games.

Difference

As an Italian fan of English football, I'd like to know the difference between your Football Association and Football League?

ANTONIO TOZZI, ITALY

• The Football Association, Antonio, is the governing body for football as a whole in the country — and that includes responsibility for England's international sides.

The Football League only controls its own 92 clubs — even though, of course, they're far-and-away the most important clubs, the focal-point of the game here, and the provider of players for the international teams.

Trevor Ford played in 38 full internationals for Wales between 1947 and 1957, scoring 23 goals.
 (STEPHEN SHAW, Birmingham)

Barnsley's best-ever finishing-position in the League is third in Division Two in both 1914-15 and

(PAUL TOWNEND, Huddersfield)

England's highest win over Scotland in a full international is 9-3 (at Wembley on 15th April, 1961).
 (SIMON KIRBY, Uckfield)

 In the final stages of the 1974
 World Cup, in West Germany,
 Australia lost 0-2 to East Germany;
 lost 0-3 to West Germany; and drew 0-0 with Chile. (STUART CHAPMAN, Gillingham)

England's scorers in their 5-1
 Wembley victory over Scotland in May, 1975 were Gerry Francis (two), Kevin Beattle, Colin Bell, and David Johnson

(RAVI TOLANI, Indonesia)

Before joining Swansea, John Toshack scored 74 goals in 161 League games for Cardiff; and 74 goals in 172 League games for Liver-

(LYNNE MULLINS, Stafford)

The first four-figure transfer fee was the £1,000 Middlesbrough paid Sunderland for Alf Common in Feb-ruary, 1905.

(JAMES MEAGAN, Eire)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters read, he can only reply are to published questions because of shortage of time.

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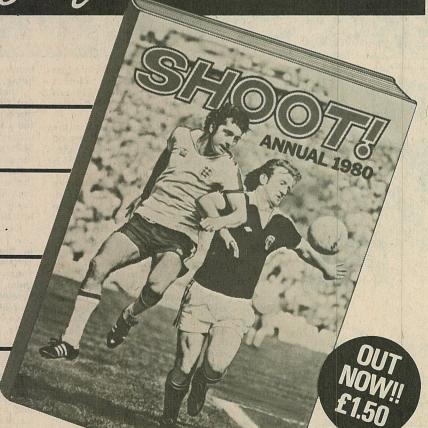
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SHOOT! ANNUAL 1980



MIGHTY swords poised threateningly above Manchester City's ground in the heart of city's Moss Side district grow blunter by the week.

Obituaries prepared lovingly by arch critics of Malcolm Allison's new regime at Maine Road are quietly shelving their sickly works and eating plates of humble pie.

and eating plates of humble pie.
For the "beast" that many
thought would die this season is
very much alive and kicking.
Malcolm Allison has rejuven-

Malcolm Allison has rejuventated City in just a few months. No one expects the club to win silver pots this season, simply to consolidate on the progress they made in the early weeks of the new season.

City claimed three points from their first four League matches, defeating newly promoted Brighton, drawing with Crystal Palace but losing to Middlesbrough and Spurs away. They also drew 1-1 away with Sheffield Wednesday in the Second Round first-leg of the League Cup. Not earth-shattering results but good enough to ease some of the pressure on Malcolm Allison



MANCHESTER CITY

-the team Big Mal built

Fortunately, the men at the helm of the good ship City appeared totally unmoved by the whole affair.

The club's chairman Peter Swales observed philosophically: "I know everyone is waiting for us to fall flat on our faces. There is a lot of pressure on us, particularly with a volatile manager like Malcolm.

"But that is great. Football is all about excitement — not hiding behind a tree. I am looking forward to the rest of the season. If it goes wrong, I won't lie down and die. And I certainly won't hide."

He reflected on the rapid transfer dealings that made the Maine Road offices resemble the floor of the Stock Exchange shortly before the start of the season.

Traded off

Four internationals, Dave Watson, Peter Barnes, Asa Hartford and Gary Owen, were traded off in one of the bravest clear-outs in football history.

orball history.

Allison failed to buy Tony Woodcock from Forest, Steve Daley from Wolves, Kevin Reeves from Norwich, Peter Taylor from Totenham, Mike Flanagan from Charlton and Marian Masny from Czechoslovakia, but he restored his damaged pride by gambling successfully on Mick Robinson, a £756,000 buy from Preston, Steve MacKenzie, another unknown from Crystal Palace, Barry Silkman, from Plymouth, Bobby Shinton, a £300,000 striker from Wrexham, and 31-year-old Dragoslav Stepanovic, a Yugoslav defender rescued from the lower reaches of the German Bundesliga, who is nicknamed "Steppy" by his teammates.

Bairy Silkman.

"We decided on the advice of Malcolm to re-build the team," says Peter Swales. "I felt myself we were not going to get any better or win the Championship with that team.

won't fall down

"I didn't realise what re-building meant until it started happening. Then Asa and Gary and other popular players went. When it starts happening, your nerves do jangle a bit.

jangle a bit.

"People say what will happen if it doesn't come off. Well, we will start again, won't we?"

Swales' courage and belief in his new team manager is of immense strength to Big Mal. He will win some and lose some — but will always have the support of the chairman.

"Only reason you get a job as a manager is when a club have got trouble," Malcolm stresses. "Every job I have ever got into they have had major troubles. It's no different this time. There are a few million people waiting to see me fall down."

He returned to his beloved Manchester City last January as coach. Tony Book was in charge of the team and although no public pronouncements were made at this time, it was considered only a matter of time before the swashbuckling Mal was given charge of playing affairs.

Malcolm Allison spent several of the early weeks examining the strengths and weaknesses of players as he reveals thus: "Manchester City had made tremendous

strides as a football club since the mid 1960's. Their off-field organisation, their relationship with the fans is great

fans, is great.
"But nothing was happening of the pitch. Some people thought that the team was a collection of gifted players, just a little way from being great."

gifted players, just a little way from being great.
"I looked at the team from the January to the Spring, and I couldn't agree. I decided that I had a team of failures on my hands.

a team of failures on my hands.
"Individually, they had talents.
But what was the use? Where
were they going? They were either
incapable or unwilling to fuse into
a team.

Happy

"People are making a lot of prejudgments on my activity during the summer. They said I had gone over the top. Well, I am very happy for people to compare the development of Peter Barnes and Gary Owen with Steve MacKenzie and Mickey Robinson over the next few seasons."

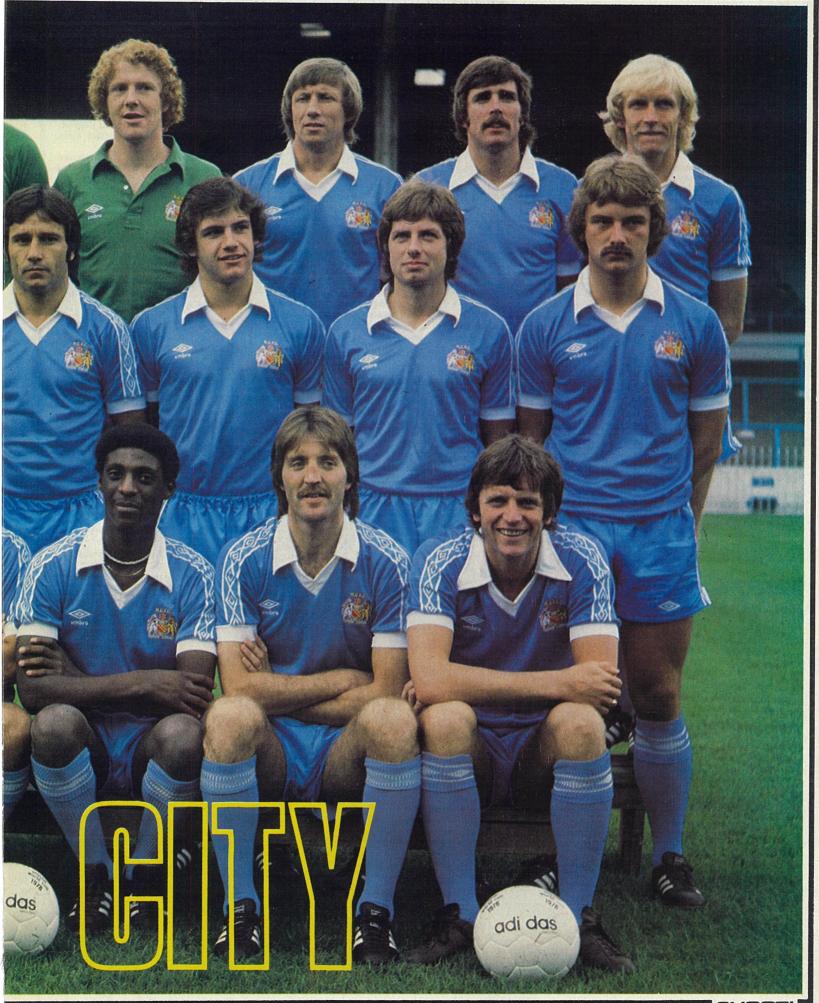
He breathes the same sentiments about a 16-year-old defender by the name of Tommy Caton. "Tommy who?" said the fans as Allison pitched the lad into First Division action for the first time on August 18th.

"There is no risk. I know what I am doing," he insists doggedly before choosing to compare Caton with the likes of John Charles, Duncan Edwards and Neil Franklin, former world class internationals whose profiles burst from the yellowing pages of any "Hundred Best Players" book.

The more cautious Allison stubs out his favourite Havana cigar,

continued on page 30





SHOOT

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Continued

empties his tumbler of Moet Chandon champagne, and talks of City's realistic short-term prospects of restoring pride to the club. "It is like a two-year-old horse

"It is like a two-year-old horse racing at the beginning of the season. You don't know how good they are. At the moment the only thing you can ask is 100 per cent. We have got a lot of other things to work out. It is the ability of one or two of the young players to get over the mental barrier that I am worried about. They could freeze."

Yet, Joe Mercer, former manager of Manchester City who steered the club into the 70's on the crest of a wave with Allison as his trusty bosun, claims there is no better man in football to motivate the young City team than Mal.

'Discard'

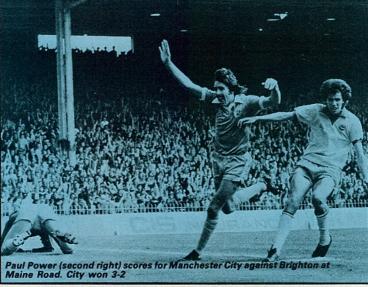
"Malcolm's a winner, always has been. He is a brilliant football coach, full of ideas. He comes to you night and day with ideas and thoughts to improve the club. Some you discard but the majority are well-founded.

are well-founded.
"Malcolm Allison is good for football," insists Joe.

Tony Book claims City are attempting to model their attitude on, surprise, surprise . . . Liverpool.

"We would like Liverpool's attitude and spirit to rub off on our new, emerging team. Under the

30



guidance of Malcolm I firmly believe it can happen.

"But a word of warning to the fans . . . there can be no overnight miracles."

So what about The Team That Mal Built? A team picture taken at the start of the 1978-79 season, which was sent in by a SHOOT reader, includes a front-row of players bearing only one face still with the club. Mike Channon is the man — and he is poised to sign for Southampton.

No player is more deserving of a testimonial this season than Joe Corrigan, the England goalkeeper who brings humour, courage and discipline to his performances.

Paul Power improves with every game playing on the left side of City's midfield formation. Now that Barnes has departed, City will rely heavily on Power's ability to cross from the flanks to Robinson, cast from the same mould that produced the old-fashioned sort of centre-forward.

Old heads like Tommy Booth and Scottish international Willie Donachie will have crucial roles in steering City's youngsters on the right course, and Dragoslav Stepanovic could do for the club

what Francis Lee achieved a few years ago, according to Malcolm Allison.

"Steppy's" English is poor but he brings the same energy and effervescence to the club that Lee revealed when he arrived more than a decade ago.

than a decade ago.

Allison says: "It took Franny ten seconds to feel at home. It's been the same with Steppy. He's a fabulous character, a great personality as well as being a top class athlete."

No, they're not mourning down at Maine Road. There is an air of optimism in the camp — but Malcolm Allison, Tony Book and Peter Swales need time to restore the club to its former glories.







BIG MATCH

W.B.A.

Man. City at The Hawthorns on Saturday, September 15th



'We certainly don't believe in defence' Gary Owen (W.B.A.)

'Our attack from the back will cause you problems' – Barry Silkman (Man. City)

OWEN: I watched your opening

OWEN: I watched your opening game, against Palace, on television and must admit I was impressed. In view of the wholesale changes that have taken place at Maine Road all eyes were on you. Some were expecting you to fail but you came through the test well. SILKMAN: It was certainly encouraging, Gary. But then we had a setback losing at Middlesbrough. Some of the stuff we produced in the first-half of the game against Palace was brilliant and bearing in mind it was only the first time we have played together first time we have played together we must have every reason to be confident about the future, especially after following up the game against Palace with a 3-2 win against Brighton at Maine Road.

OWEN: I accept that but if I can

introduce a note of caution I would point out that it is a very long season and it would be silly to try

season and it would be silly to try and pass judgment so early. SILKMAN: Yes, but I said when I came here that things could only get better — and that has happened already. Team spirit is tremendous and I think those who are waiting for us to flop badly will be disappointed.

are waiting for us to flop badly will be disappointed.

OWEN: I can't understand people wanting you to fall flat on your faces. When Malcolm Allison ripped the side apart and completely reshaped it he was clearly doing what he thought was right and best for the club.

SILKMAN: Nice to hear you say that. Malcolm certainly acted very bravely but then he has never lacked courage. He is his own man and stands or falls by his own decisions, allowing no one else to influence him.

influence him.

OWEN: And even though I was one of the players who left City in the shake-up there is no animosity, on my part. I had no arguments with Malcolm. He had his own ideas of what was wanted and I did not seem to fit in with his plans — so it was best to move on.

SILKMAN: You had been at City for a few years and in the first team.

a few years, and in the first team since you were 17. So I feel you were in a rut and needed a move. I'm sure the change will do you good and benefit your game.

OWEN: Getting back to City — it seems there is a definite change of pattern to your game — although it is difficult to analyse accurately

pattern to your game — although it is difficult to analyse accurately from television.

SILKMAN: The style HAS changed. And the most significant thing is we attack from the back. Most teams use midfield players to come through and join the attack — we employ defenders for that purpose. Malcolm reckons that players coming through from very deep positions are the most difficult to pick up and I'm sure the tactics will cause problems to a lot of opponents this season.

OWEN: One thing that was very noticeable was that City don't have an orthodox winger now. That really stood out for me — for when I was there we had the likes of Dennis Tueart and Peter Barnes, who is now at Albion with me. SILKMAN: Malcolm has done away with them because he reckons they are too easy to mark. They stay wide and if the opposing full-backs are clever — which they

usually are — they close down and give them no room. Out-and-out wingers are something of a stand-

wingers are something of a standing target and, getting back to what I said earlier, players are much more difficult to pick up breaking from deep positions.

OWEN: It looks as if it should be a great game on Saturday. It is clear that you want to keep things open and play football. And that suits us fine for we love to go forward in and play football. And that suits us fine, for we love to go forward. In fact our boss, Ron Atkinson, drills home to us the fact that opponents cannot come at us if we are attacking them — and that's what we set out to do.

SILKMAN: Despite your surprisingly poor start to the season, Albion have gained a reputation as one of the most positive, attractive

one of the most positive, attractive one of the most positive, attractive sides in the country over the past two years. But you can't attack if you don't have the ball — and we'll be out to stop you getting it.

OWEN: Albion's refreshing approach to the game was what helped make up my mind to sign for them. I had a few options open

to me, but when Ron Atkinson wanted me I regarded it as a privilege to sign. There are some great players here and I'll be sur-prised if we don't go places.

SILKMAN: So will I. You certainly do have some big name players at The Hawthorns — but they are sensible enough to realise that a name alone is not enough. You have to go out and play as well — and your lads do it. All the ingredients are there for a marvellous match — two teams with good match — two teams with good players, good ideas and a positive approach. I just hope it lives up to expectations and provides great entertainment for the fans. I'm certainly looking forward to it very much.

OWEN: Me too. A lot of the City players have arrived since I left the club, so are new to me. But I'll be happy to buy them all a drink — together with the lads I DO know, like Joe Corrigan, Tommy Booth and Willie Donachie after the match. Let's hope it's a good one.





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SPORT & LEISURE, 52 LAINDON CENTRE, BASILDON, ESSEX.

Make-or-break season for Mario Kempes

A S the Spanish season makes its September start, fans in Valencia are desperately hoping that Mario Kempes can recover the form he seems to have lost since scoring those two historic goals for Argentina in the 1978 World Cup Final.

On returning to Spain, the fans expected him to continue producing the kind of form that had led him to the Pichichi Trophy for the League's leading scorer in the two previous seasons. But Mario was a big disappointment, hitting only 13 goals in 30 League appearances (including two penalties); three goals in 11 Spanish Cup matches (including one penalty); and three goals in six U.E.F.A. Cup games.

Some strikers would be moderately happy with his overall tally of 19 goals in 47 matches, but it was a poor return for the man labelled as the world's Number One goalas the world's Number One goal-scorer. What's more, the statistics are, if anything, slightly flattering as few of Mario's goals were important ones — the notable exception being the two goals he scored in Valencia's 2-0 Cup Final win over Real Madrid when he at last looked sharp and hungry for

For most of the season, Kempes had been a caricature of his former self — listless, erratic, short on ball-control and preferring to seek penalty decisions rather than look for goals. What's more, he became so ill-tempered that for the first time in his career he was shown



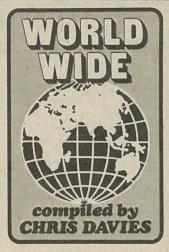
enough yellow cards to warrant a suspension.

In the meantime, Barcelona's Hans Krankl was coolly knocking in 36 goals in 41 appearances to take the goalscoring crown, and Mario Kempes finished in a dismal 66th position in the final tally of the season's Press ratings. Mario admits that it was the worst season of his career. "I know

this is a stock phrase these days, but I was just saturated with football after the World Cup, and all the pressures just got on top of me. And the more I tried, the worse things got. Then I started losing weight (by Easter he was nine pounds lighter than in September). And of course there was a lot happening for me cutcide for lot happening for me outside foot-ball as well, and there's no doubt that all this commercial wheeling and dealing is a distraction.

Then I got married and set up a new home — you know a lot has happened in the last year and, looking back I'm not surprised that my form suffered. But don't you worry about this season — I'll be back to top form. I've had a good rest, which is what I needed more than anything else. Anyway, I'm sure Valencia will be a team to watch this season, especially in the Cup-Winners' Cup, and I'll be aiming to score goals right down the line."

Let's hope Mario is right and that we'll have the chance to see some vintage Kempes this season and not the lack-lustre version that



MHO MON?

THERE was a strange incident at the end of the recent game between Uruguay and Chile with the Pinto Duran Cup at stake. Uruguay won the match 2-1, but the Chilean players were convinced they had won the Cup on away goals, as they'd won the first log 1-0

the Cup on away goals, as they'd won the first leg 1-0.

The Uruguayans didn't agree, and the Chile team promptly refused to leave the Centenario Stadium in Montevideo until they'd been presented with the Cup!

After lengthy arguments, both countries agreed to play a deciding match later in the

WORLD CUP BRIBE SENSATION

EX-BRAZIL manager Aymore Moreira, who led his country to their 1962 World Cup win in Chile, has recently made some astonishing revelations to a local newspaper reporter.

Moreira claims to have bribed Uruguayan referee Esteban Marino who

Uruguayan referee Esteban Marino who was acting as linesman during Brazil's Semi-Final against Chile. The incident occurred when legendary Brazilian right-winger Garrincha punched a Chilean defender, and the Uruguayan official spotted the offence.

As he lifted his flag to draw the referee's attention to the incident, Moreira apparently shouted an "offer" of £2,500 and the flag was promptly lowered.

Garrincha went on to score two goals in the match and, had he been sent-off, he would have been automatically sus-pended from the Final, in which Brazil beat Czechoslovakia 3-1.



SEPP Maier was released from hospital after 18 days following his car accident and one of his first appointments was to see Bayern Munich play Bayer Leverkusen. Sepp hopes to be playing again by the New Year; in the meantime, his replacement in the national side is Dieter Burdenski, of Dave Watson's club Werder Bremen.

News flaskes

In Rio, referee Wilson Carlos dos Santos again provided extra entertainment, issuing eight yellow cards to the play-ers of the Botarogo and Goitacas teams, besides sending off a player from each side. On the previous Sunday, referee Wilson had a field day, sending off five players in the Vasco vs. Flamengo

The League is awaiting observers' reports, as Press comment has been very unfavourable alleging poor technique and gross errors in both games.

Dudu Georgescu of Dinamo Bucharest who won Europe's Golden Boot two seasons ago has boosted his overall goals total to 172, the highest ever by one ma Division. man in the Rumanian First

Seventeen-year-old Peruvian striker Seventeen-year-old Peruvian striker Rafael Palomino was having a great game for his club Atlas. They were leading home team Rayo 3-0 and Palomino had scored all three goals. But just before the end of the match, tragedy struck. A Rayo fan was so incensed by Palomino's three goals that home picked up a shortun. he went home, picked up a shotgun, returned to the ground and shot the visiting striker dead.

Lev Yashin, manager of Dynamo Mos-cow, reckons Russia have five goal-keepers who could become great: Vladimir Pilguij and Nicholas Gontar of his own team, Vladimir Astapovski the cur-

RIVALS FRIENDS AGAIN

IT looks like the rift between Brazilian manager Cláudio Coutinho and Argenti-nian manager Céssar Luis Menotti has been bridged. Last month Coutinho telephoned Menotti in Argentina and talked to him for over an hour, patching

telephoned Menotti in Argentina and talked to him for over an hour, patching up their recent disagreements.

The hard feelings seemed to have started after Argentina beat Peru 6-0 in the World Cup and Coutinho attributed the easy win to pressures, financial or otherwise, put on the Peruvian players. Now, Coutinho and Menotti seem the best of friends. They have agreed to take part together in two television programmes — one to be aired in Rio de Janeiro, the other in Buenos Aires — and apparently have only one remaining point of dispute.

Says Coutinho: "César must be crazy to say that Diego Maradona is the best number ten in the world. What about Zico, who only recently destroyed his team, Maradona and all, in Buenos Aires?"

But a new clash between Maradona and Zico is going to take some time to come. Zico played for Brazil in the America Cup, against Argentina and Bolivia, but Maradona was busy in Japan, in the Junior World Championship.

Zico is about to break the Brazilian record for the most prolific scorer in the League Championship, so far held by Silvio Pirilo with 31 goals in 24 games. Zico right now boasts of 28 goals scored in just 16 games of the Rio League Championship.

The First Round of the Championship, known as the Guanabara Cup, was won y Flamengo, with Zico providing the two goals on a difficult win over

rent national team 'keeper and Yuri Romensky of Dynamo Kiev. The fifth is Yuri Degtarev, recently dropped by national boss Nikita Simonian; he plays for Schachtjor Donezk.

Italian club Foggia were in the "Serie A" two years ago but were soon relegated. Since then they have been relegated down to the Second and now the Third Division in the space of three seasons. They are also almost £4 million in debt.

Ryczard Kulewicz, the boss of Poland's

national team, is clearly eager to build a new young side. Five of his squad that beat Holland recently are only 21 while Zbigniew Boniek of Widzew Lodz, voted the most popular player in Poland last season, is still only 22.

Siegfrid "Sigi" Held, who was inside-left for West Germany against England in the 1966 World Cup Final, is still playing. Now 37, he is a sweeper these days and was transferred during the summer break from Borussia Dortmund to Preussen Munster of Division Two.

...SCORERS...GATES... RESULTS..

THIS week we launch a new readers THIS week we launch a new readers service designed to give you a comprehensive record of all League and Cup results in England and Scotland. The service will include all scorers with service will include all scorers with standances, and will be illustrated with big-match action pictures. Cut-out his section and compile a week-by-week record for your scrapbook.

Saturday, August 11

Charity Shield

Arsenal (0) 1 (Sunderland) Liverpool (1) 3 (McDermott 2, (at Wembley) 92,000

Football League Cup

(First Round, first-leg) Blackpool (0) 1 (McEwan) Rochdale (1) 1 (Jones) 5,342 Bradford C. (0) 0 Darlington (1) 2 (Walsh, Peachey) 3,179 Bury (0) 0 Blackburn (1) 3 (Brotherston 2, 6.143 McKenzie) Chester (1) 2 (Henderson 2) Walsali (1) 1 (Serella)

Chesterfield (1) 5 (Birch 2, (1 pen)), Walker, Moss 2) Hartlepool (0) 1 (Harding)

Colchester (2) 2 (Hodge (pen), Gough) 4.638

Gillingham (2) 3 (Price 2, Barker (pen)) Luton (0) 0 6,2 Grimsby (2) 2 (Ford 2)

Scunthorpe (0) 0 5.083 Halifax (1) 2 (Johnson, Mountford) Shrewsbury (1) 2 (Turner, Maguire)

1.904 Hereford (1) 1 (White) Exeter (1) 3 (Bowker 3)

Huddersfield (1) 2 (Brown, Sutton) 2 944 Crewe (0) 1 (Davies)

Leicester (1) 1 (Young) Rotherham (1) 2 (Finney, Gooding) 11,210

Lincoln (1) 2 (Peake, Cunningham) Barnsley (1) 1 (Riley) 6.753 Mansfield (0) 1 (Taylor) York (0) 0 3,177

Newport (0) 1 (Tynan) Plymouth (0) 0 4,574 Oxford (1) 1 (Foley)

Reading (1) 5 (Kearney, Earles 2, Wanklyn, Williams) 5.387

Peterborough (2) 3 (Kellock 2 (1 pen), Guy) Charlton (0) 1 (Walker) 4,140

Portsmouth (1) 1 (Rogers) Swindon (1) 1 (Rowland) 9,978 Port Vale (0) 1 (Woolfall)

Tranmere (0) 2 (Peplow, Lumby) 3,213

Sheff. Utd. (0) 1 (Flood) Doncaster (0) 1 (Dowie) 6,000 Sheff. Wed. (1) 1 (Curran) Hull (0) 1 (Edwards) 9.152

Stockport (1) 2 (Czuczman, Sherlock) Wigan (1) 1 (Houghton) 6,

Swansea (1) 4 (Waddle 3, Toshack) Bournemouth (0) 1 (Chambers) 1 13,500 Torquay (0) 1 (Lawrence) Bristol Rovers (2) 2 (White, Barrowclough) 4 506

Wimbledon (3) 4 (Parsons, Cork, Leslie, Knowles) Aldershot (1) 1 (Wooller)

Wrexham (0) 1 (Vinter) Carlisle (0) 1 (Kemp) 5.878

Scottish Premier

Celtic (2) 3 (Provan, McCluskey, MacLeod (pen)) Morton (0) 2 (Ritchie 2) 26,000

Dundee United (1) 3 (Sturrock, Kirkwood, Stark) Dundee (0) 0 17,968

Rangers (2) 3 (MacDonald A, Cooper, Russell) 20 00 20,000

Partick (0) 1 (McAdam (pen)) Aberdeen (0) 0 5.000

St. Mirren (1) 2 (Stark, Torrance) Kilmarnock (0) 2 (Docherty, Clark P 7.000

Scottish First

Arbroath (0) 1 (Yule) Hearts (1) 2 (Fraser, Robertson) 2.261

Ayr United (0) 1 (McLaughlin) Dumbarton (2) 2 (Wells (o.g.), Sharpe) 2 647

Berwick (0) 2 (Morton (pen), Moyes) Airdrie (1) 2 (Gordon, Clark) 1.360

Clydebank (1) 1 (Sweeney) Motherwell (1) 1 (Irvine) 2,000

Hamilton (0) 2 (Brannigan (o.g.), Frew) St. Johnstone (1) 2 (Goldthorp 2) 2,500

Clyde (0) 0 1,200

Stirling (2) 4 (Armstrong, Kennedy, Nicol, Beaton) Dunfermline (0) 0 1.700

Scottish Second

Alloa (3) 8 (Morrison, McIntosh 2, Cochrane 2, Holt 2, Muir) Brechin (3) 3 (Campbell I, Patterson 2) 700

Cowdenbeath (1) 4 (Liddle 3, Steele) Montrose (2) 2 (Oliver, Murray)

Falkirk (2) 4 (McDowell, McRoberts, May (pen), Mitchell) Stenhousemuir (0) 1 (Hancock) 2 2,000

Forfar (0) 1 (Brash) East Fife (0) 0 1.067

Meadowbank (2) 2 (Jobson 2) Stranraer (1) 1 (Gibb) 150

Queen of Sth (2) 2 (Coughlin, Alexander) Albion (0) 1 (Campbell) 1.000

Queen's Park (0) 2 (Nicholson, Gillespie) East Stirling (0) 0 742

Monday, August 13

Football League Cup

(First Round, first-leg) Northampton (0) 2 (Reilly 2 (2 pens)) Millwall (1) 1 (O'Callaghan)

Tuesday, August 14

Football League Cup

(First Round, second-leg)

Aldershot (1) 1 (French (pen) Wimbledon (1) 2 (Leslie, Knowles) 3,280 (Wimbledon win 6-2 on agg.)

Barnsley (1) 2 (Bell, Graham) Lincoln (0) 1 (Cunningham) a.e.t. 11,914 (Barnsley win 4-3 on pens)

Blackburn (2) 3 (McKenzie 2 (1 pen), Kendall) Bury (0) 2 (Gregory, Johnson) (Blackburn win 6-2 on agg.) 5.753

Swansea (0) 0 (Swansea win 4-1 on agg.) 5 824

Bristol Rovers (0) 1 (Emmanuel) Torquay (1) 3 (Cooper, Lawrence, Bourne) a.e.t.3,758 (Torquay win 4-3 on agg.)

Carlisle (1) 1 (Jones (o.g.)) Wrexham (0) 2 (Whittle, McNeil) (Wrexham win 3-2 on agg.) 6,500

Charlton (1) 1 (Hales) Peterborough (0) 1 (Chard) (Peterborough win 4-2 on agg.) 5,496

Darlington (0) 0 Bradford C. (1) 3 (Watson, Dolan 2)

(Bradford win 3-2 on agg.)

Doncaster (2) 3 (Nimmo, Pugh, Warboys (pen)) Sheff. Utd. (0) 1 (Brown) (Doncaster win 4-2 on agg.)

Hartlepool (0) 2 (Goldthorpe (pen), Chesterfield (1) 1 (Norton (o.g.)) (Chesterfield win 6-3 on agg.)

Hull (1) 1 (Roberts) Sheff. Wed. (0) 2 (Fleming, Curran) 7,059

(Sheff. Wed. win 3-2 on agg.) Luton (0) 1 (Aizlewood) Gillingham (0) 1 (Crabbe) (Gillingham win 4-1 on agg.) 5.509

Plymouth (1) 2 (Binney, Bason) Newport (0) 0 4.505 (Plymouth win 2-1 on agg.)

Rochdale (0) 0 Blackpool (0) 1 (Spence) (Blackpool win 2-1 on agg.) 5.000

Rotherham (1) 3 (Gooding, Fern 2) Leicester (0) 0 5 179 (Rotherham win 5-1 on agg.)

Scunthorpe (0) 0 Grimsby (0) 0 (Grimsby win 2-0 on agg.) 3,908



Shrewsbury (0) 1 (Atkins) Halifax (0) 0 (Shrewsbury win 3-2 on agg.)

Swindon (0) 2 (Mellor (o.g.), Carter) Portsmouth (0) 0 9,097 (Swindon win 3-1 on agg.)

Walsall (0) 0 Chester (0) 0 3,611 (Chester win 2-1 on agg.)

Watford (0) 2 (Bolton 2 (1 pen)) Colchester (1) 1 (Allinson) (Colchester win 3-2 on agg.) 10.045

York (0) 3 (Randall, Clements, Staniforth) Mansfield (0) 2 (Wood, Hamilton)

(Agg. 3-3 — Mansfield win on away goals)

Wednesday, August 15

Football League Cup

(First Round, first-leg) Southend (1) 2 (Fell, McNichol (o.g.)) Brentford (0) 1 (Holmes) 3,600

(First Round, second-leg) Crewe (0) 1 (Nelson) Huddersfield (2) 3 (Robins 2, Fletcher) 3,920

(Huddersfield win 5-2 on agg.) Exeter (1) 2 (Pullar, Pearson) Hereford (0) 1 (Layton) (Exeter win 5-2 on agg.) 4.312

Millwall (1) 2 (O'Callaghan, Seasman) Northampton (1) 2 (Bowen, 4,218 McCaffery) (Northampton win 4-3 on agg.)

Reading (1) 2 (Earles, White) Oxford (1) 1 (Foley) (Reading win 7-2 on agg.) 6.834

Tranmere (0) 1 (Peplow) Port Vale (0) 0 3.026 (Tranmere win 3-1 on agg.)

Wigan (0) 0 Stockport (0) 0 7.591 (Stockport win 2-1 on agg.)

Scottish League Cup

First Round, first-lea Aberdeen (3) 4 (McGhee, Davidson, McMaster, Jarvie) Arbroath (0) 0 7,000 Dumbarton (0) 1 (Brown) St. Johnstone (0) 1 (Goldthorp) 1.500 East Stirling (0) 1 (McCaig) Albion (0) 1 (Franchetti (pen)) 1.200

Forfar (1) 3 (Mitchell, Reid, Clark) Berwick (0) 2 (Smith 2) 1.500

Kilmarnock (1) 2 (Jardine, Doherty)

Stranraer (0) 0 Dunfermline (0) 0 2.000

Saturday, August 18

First Division

Bolton (0) 1 (Whatmore) Aston Villa (0) 1 (Cowans)

19.795

Arsenal (3) 4 (Stapleton, Sunderland 2 Brady (pen)) 28.604

Bristol City (1) 2 (Ritchie (pen), Jantunen) Leeds (1) 2 (Curtis 2)

22 845

SCORERS...GATES... RESULTS...SCORERS...

Everton (2) 2 (Ross (pen), Nulty) Norwich (3) 4 (McGuire, Fashanu 2,	Sheff. Utd. (0) 2 (Benjamin (pen), Brown)	Scottish Second	Middlesbro (1) 3 (Johnston, Burns, Cummins)
Peters) 26,539	Swindon (1) 1 (Mayes) 11,923	Albion (2) 3 (Franchetti, Coyle, Gillestie) Queen's Park (0) 0 750	Man. City (0) 0 24,002
Ipswich (0) 0 Nottm. For. (0) 1 (Woodcock) 27,371	Southend (1) 1 (Tuohy) Carlisle (0) 0 4,140	Brechin (0) 2 (Paterson 2) Forfar (0) 0 1,000	Second Division Bristol Rovers (0) 3 (Dennehy, White 2)
Man. City (0) 0 C. Palace (0) 0 40,681	Wimbledon (1) 2 (Leslie, Cork) Chester (2) 3 (Ruggiero, Henderson, Edwards) 3,549	East Fife (1) 4 (Mackie, Brown, Wedderburn 2)	Luton (0) 2 (Moss 2 (1 pen)) 5,614
Southampton (1) 1 (Peach (pen)) Man. United (1) 1 (McQueen) 21,768	Fourth Division	Cowdenbeath(0) 0 990 East Stirling (1) 2 (McCulley (pen),	Burnley (0) 1 (Kindon) Charlton (0) 1 (Robinson) 6,807
Stoke (1) 3 (Busby, Crooks 2) Coventry (0) 2 (Powell 2 (1 pen)) 23,131	Bradford City (2) 4 (Dolan, Baines 2,	Robertson) Falkirk (1) 3 (McDowell, Brown Hey (pen)) 2,045	Cambridge (0) 1 (Finney) Leicester (0) 1 (Young) 6,842
Tottenham (0) 1 (Hoddle) Middlesbro (0) 3 (Armstrong, Burns,	Staniforth) Crewe (0) 0 3,668	Montrose (1) 3 (Murray, Robb 2) Meadowbank (0) 0 900	Oldham (1) 2 (Heaton, Stainrod) Wrexham (3) 3 (Vinter, McNeil 2) 6,882
Jankovic) 32,743 West Brom (0) 0	Darlington (1) 2 (Taylor 2) Wigan (1) 2 (Purdie, Hinnigan) 2,063	Stenhousemuir (1) 3 (Dunn 3) Alloa (0) 1 (McIntosh) 700	Preston (0) 1 (Potts) Newcastle (0) 0 12,707
Derby (0) 0 24,484 POSTPONED: Wolves v. Liverpool	Doncaster (2) 2 (Warboys (pen), Cork) Northampton (0) 1 (McCaffrey) 4,402	Stranraer (5) 5 (Clark (o.g.), Sin,	Shrewsbury (0) 1 (Griffin) Notts Co. (0) 1 (Christie) 7,369
Second Division	Hartlepool (0) 0 Portsmouth (1) 3 (Bryant, McLaughlin, Garwood) 3,075	McDonald 2 (2 pens), Gibb) Queen of South (0) 1 (Alexander) 1,150	Watford (0) 0 Swansea (0) 0 15,208
Birmingham (3) 3 (Evans, Dillon,	Hereford (2) 3 (McGrellis 2, Jones) York (1) 1 (Randall) 3,149		Third Division Bury (1) 3 (Gregory 2, Mullen)
Bertschin) Fulham (0) 4 (Davies 3, Guthrie) 19,197	Huddersfield (1) 2 (Robins, Hart)		Blackpool (0) 0 4,028
Charlton (0) 0 Preston (2) 3 (Elliott, Bell, Thomson) 6.148	Aldershot (0) 0 3,313		Carlisle (1) 1 (Bannon) Blackburn (1) 1 (McKenzie) 5,801
Chelsea (0) 0 Sunderland (0) 0 23,500	Peterborough (1) 1 (Kellock) 4,725 Newport (1) 2 (Vaughan, Goddard)	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	Chesterfield (0) 2 (Moss, Walker) Barnsley(0) 0 7,706
Leicester (0) 2 (Young 2) Watford (0) 0 15,772	Port Vale (1) 1 (Tully) 4,008 Rochdale (0) 0		Colchester(0) 1 (Lee) Sheff. Utd. (0) 0 4,191
Luton (0) 1 (Moss)	Bournemouth (1) 2 (Cunningham, Chambers (pen)) 2,310	Geert Meyer (right) of	Millwall (1) 2 (O'Callaghan, Lyons) Plymouth (0) 1 (Hodges) 5,153
Cambridge (0) 1 (Biley) 8,202 Newcastle (2) 3 (Withe, Shoulder 2 (2	Torquay (2) 3 (Twitchin, Lawrence, Levy)	Bristol City holds off a challenge by Coven-	Rotherham (1) 2 (Fern, Finney) Mansfield (0) 1 (Austin) 4,490
pens)) Oldham (2) 2 (Atkinson, Steele) 18,817	Scunthorpe (0) 0 3,063 Tranmere (1) 2 (Craven, Kerr)	Control of the Contro	Sheff. Wed. (0) 0 Hull (0) 0 14,376
Notts Co. (0) 4 (McCulloch, Mair, Richards, Masson)	Halifax (0) 0 2,650	Monday, August 20	Swindon (0) 0
Cardiff (0) 1 (Jones) 7,157	Walsall (0) 2 (Penn, Kelly) Stockport (1) 1 (Henson) 3,786	Second Division West Ham (0) 0	Reading (0) 0 9,500
Orient (1) 2 (Coates 2) Burnley (1) 2 (James, Kindon) 6,151	Scottish Premier	Chelsea (1) 1 (Johnson) 31,627	Fourth Division Aldershot (0) 0
Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Allen, Goddard) Bristol R (0) 0 12,652	Aberdeen (1) 3 (Archibald, McMaster 2) Hibs (0) 0 12,000	Fourth Division Port Vale (0) 0	Newport (0) 1 (Moore) 3,537 Bournemouth (0) 1 (Hefferman)
Swansea (0) 2 (James, Waddle) Shrewsbury (0) 0 20,000	Dundee (2) 4 (Redford 4) St. Mirren (0) 1 (Torrance) 8,343	Hereford (1) 1 (Feeley) 2,744 Stockport (1) 1 (Henson)	Walsall (1) 1 (Paul) 4,833 Halifax (1) 1 (Harris)
Wrexham (0) 1 (Vinter) West Ham (0) 0 13,036	Kilmarnock (0) 1 (Street)	Rochdale (0) 1 (Esser) 3,554	Doncaster (1) 1 (Warboys) 2,501
Third Division	Dundee Utd (0) 0 7,500 Morton (1) 2 (Thomson, Scott)	Tuesday, August 21	Portsmouth (2) 3 (Showers, Garwood 2 (1 pen)) Torquay (0) 0 11,430
Barnsley (0) 0 Sheff. Wed. (1) 3 (Curran, McCulloch,	Partick (1) 1 (Whittaker) 6,000 Rangers (0) 2 (MacDonald J, Russell) Celtic (0) 2 (Sneddon, McAdam) 29,767	European Cup-Winners' Cup	Scunthorpe (1) 1 (Kavanagh) *Hartlepool (1) 3 (Brooks, Lawrence, Linacre) 1,710
Mellor) 22,360 Blackburn (0) 1 (Craig)	Certic (6) 2 (Circulotti, McAdatti) 25,767	(Preliminary Round, first-leg) Rangers (1) 1 (Smith) Lillestroem (0) 0 20,000	York (1) 3 (McDonald 2, Ford) Darlington (0) 1 (Seal) 2,537
Millwall (0) 1 (Towner) 8,232	Scottish First	Football League Cup	Wednesday, August 22
Blackpool (0) 2 (Pashley, McEwan) Gillingham (0) 1 (Westwood) 5,253	Airdrie (0) 0 Raith (0) 0 2,500	(First Round, second-leg)	First Division
Grimsby (1) 4 (Cumming, Waters (pen), Liddell 2) Exeter (0) 1 (Neville) 5,937	Clyde (0) 1 (McCabe) Clydebank(0) 0 1,174	Brentford (0) 1 (Allder) Southend (0) 4 (Tuohy 2, Morris, Parker)	Aston Villa (1) 2 (Evans, Morley) Brighton (1) 1 (Maybank) 28,803
Hull (0) 0 Colchester (1) 2 (Allinson, Hodge) 4,463	Dumbarton (2) 3 (Gallagher B, Sharp, Blair) Hamilton (0) 2 (Deeney, Graham) 1,000	(Southend win 6-2 on agg.) 7,818	Derby (0) 0 Wolves (1) 1 (Clarke) 21,727
Mansfield (1) 3 (Allen, Bird, Curtis) Chesterfield (1) 2 (Walker 2) 5,623	Dunfermline (1) 1 (Sharp) Berwick (1) 2 (McLean, Smith G) 2,476	First Division	Leeds (0) 2 (Hird, Harris) Everton (0) 0 30,000
Oxford (2) 5 (Jeffrey, Hodgson, Berry 2,	Hearts (3) 4 (Gibson, O'Connor, Fraser, Robertson)	Arsenal (0) 0 Ipswich (1) 2 (Hunter, Muhren) 33,245	Man. Utd. (1) 2 (McQueen, Coppell) West Brom (0) 0 53,393
Foley) Rotherham (0) 1 (Rhodes) 3,181	Ayr (2) 2 (Connor, Cramond) 5,700	Coventry (1) 3 (English, Powell (pen), Hutchison) Bristol City (1) 1 (Ritchie (pen)) 19,293	Norwich (0) 4 (Reeves 2, Peters,
Plymouth (2) 2 (Binney 2 (1 pen)) Bury (0) 0 5,547	Motherwell (1) 1 (McKenzie) Arbroath (0) 1 (Kidd) 2,895	C. Palace (0) 0 Southampton (0) 0 31,756	Fashann) Tottenham (0) 0 Nottm For (0) 1 (O'Neill)
Reading (1) 2 (Hicks, Bowman) Brentford (1) 2 (Henderson (o.g.),	St. Johnstone (2) 3 (Brogan, Hamilton, McNeil)	Liverpool (0) 0	Stoke (0) 0 26,147
Fraser) 7,901	Stirling (0) 0 2,347	Bolton (0) 0 45,900	CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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WALES HOME	S/BOYS		YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
SINGAPORE AWAY	S/BOYS		YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
SAUDI ARABIA	S/BOYS	BOYS		S/MENS	LARGE
INDONESIA AWAY		BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
ENGLAND HOME		EN BYIEL		S/MENS	
LEEDS HOME			YOUTHS		
C PALACE AWAY				S/MENS	
DUNDEE HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
EINTRACHT AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
LEICESTER HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
LEICESTER AWAY		BOYS	YOUTHS		
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CALLERS WELCOME

Opponents have cause to fear

DID you know that Rangers have a 'Dozy' on their books? And also a 'Bomber', a 'Doddy' and a 'Baa' . . .

Footballers are amazing people for coming up with nicknames for their fellow team-mates and Rangers players are no exception. John Greig, for instance, was known as 'Scrambled Egg' for a

while in rhyming slang.
Me? I've got to own up to 'Baa'.
Why 'Baa'? Well, when I first joined
Rangers I've got to admit that was the way I pronounced Ball. I would shout: 'Give me the baa' and all my colleagues would fall about

laughing.
That's the way most people in

That's the way most people in Dundee pronounced it and I didn't see the lighter side at first. In Glasgow most youngsters term ball as 'baw' rhyming with claw. It's a funny old world, isn't it? Anyway, the name 'Baa' stuck, and I doubt if I'll ever get rid of it. Who is 'Dozy'? That's our young left-back Ally Dawson. 'Dozy' Dawson doesn't really do him justice ... he always looks wide awake to me. There aren't many wingers around who can say they enjoy playing against young Ally.

around who can say they enjoy playing against young Ally.

And who is 'Bomber'? That's centre-half Colin Jackson and if you ever saw him in action in aerial combat you'll realise how he got that particular name.

Goalkeeper Peter McCloy is, naturally enough, called 'The Cat'

... that seems to be a standard nickname for 'keepers, doesn't it?

Coloured hair

Sandy Jardine has been called Sandy for so long that you forget it is not his real name. No, he's not an Alexander. He's actually called William Jardine, but apparently when he first joined Rangers he

when he first joined Hangers ne had sandy coloured hair.

Tom Forsyth is, of course, 'Jaws'. Actually, I don't think the big man really likes that handle, but, like me, he is stuck with it.

Alex MacDonald is known as 'Doddy' while Tommy McLean, for some unknown reason is called

some unknown reason, is called 'Bufty'. Honestly.

Bobby Russell is 'Rusty' while Gordon Smith is 'tagged 'Casper' after the comic book ghost. Gordon has a habit of drifting around penalty areas and suddenly emerg-ing when defences least expect him. You can certainly say rivals have cause to fear Casper.

Alex Miller, would you believe, is



CASPER— the ghost of Ibrox'

known as 'Squeaky'. And Davie Cooper has two nicknames. One is 'Coop' and the other is 'Tommy' after that madcap comedian. Actually, there aren't an awful lot of defences who find 'Tommy' hilari-ous at the moment. He is having a great season, I'm glad to say.

There aren't many bachelors left at Ibrox these days. Derek Parlane and I joined the ranks of the married men last year and that leaves Ally Dawson and Colin Jackson as

our eligible bachelors.

Davie Cooper is engaged and ready to become respectable! Only

joking, Davie . . . Like offices and factories, the boys at Ibrox talk about their cars quite a lot. There always seems to be someone having bother with

his pride and joy.
I don't drive, but my wife Marion does and she takes me to Ibrox in our Fiat for training. Luckily, I have our Flat for training. Luckily, I have an uncle who is a taxi driver and he comes round to the ground most days to pick me up and take me to my home in Renfrew.

Alex MacDonald has gone through several cars and is driving

an Allegro at the moment. Peter McCloy has a Cavalier Coupe while Sandy Jardine also has a Fiat and a Mini Clubman.

Tom Forsyth owns a very impressive Rover and Colin Jackson has a Scirocco. Tommy McLean drives an Audi while Gordon Smith has a Citroen GS. Bobby Russell is another with a Fiat, while Alex Miller has a Maxi, and Kenny Watson has a Viva.

That, then, is just a little bit of background on the lads I spend my working life with. They are a good bunch to have around you and I must say here and now there is a great family spirit about the club at the moment.

Cheers for now and I'll see you all in a fortnight . . .



TARTAN TALK CELTIC'S DANNY McGRAIN NEXT WEEK













OMMY Docherty is not the type to hide his light under a bushel.

No manager has spent more money in the transfer market, and no one loves the wheeling and dealing business more.

So it seems rather strange to hear The Doc uttering these words: "The transfer market has gone crazy. I don't believe any footballer is worth a million pounds, and some of the recent fees paid by clubs have been ludicrous."

Docherty himself has spent over a million pounds this summer on five players, but he reckons he's got value for money in comparison

to other managers.

He qualifies his comments by saying: "I don't blame a manager for paying any amount of money provided he wants a player desperately enough.

"If you fancy someone you have to back your own judgment and pay the asking fee.

'Criticise'

"Personally I wouldn't have paid a million pounds for Trevor Fran-cis, £825,000 for Ray Wilkins or £650,000 for Mike Flanagan, but I'm not going to criticise the managers who do fancy them. Every manager has his own ideas about the players he wants and provided his directors make the money available he has to go ahead." Docherty, renowned as one of the shrewdest buyers around, is

delighted with his own outlay.

"At £400,000 Tony Currie is a steal from Leeds. To be fair to the Elland Road club they let us have Tony at a good price, principally because he wanted to move back to London.

"To think that I got a current England international for £50,000 less than I sold Gerry Francis to Crystal Palace brings a smile to my



He'll be a good influence on our younger players with the experience he can bring to bear.

"He is one of the few world class players who were available during the break and at £400,000 I believe I've got a real bargain.

Docherty is also deighted with his signing of the England Under-21 goalkeeper Chris Woods from Nottingham Forest.

"It can be argued that Chris is England's number three goal-England's number three goal-keeper because it was only Peter Shilton who kept him out of the Forest side and as Shilton is only understudy to Ray Clemence I reckon that makes Chris next on

the list.
"I paid £250,000 for him and he has more time on his side than either of the other two so potentially he's the best long-term goalkeeper in the country.

Of his third big signing David McCreery from Manchester United The Doc enthuses: "I tried to sign him when I was at Derby, and it was only at the second attempt that I persuaded him to come to London.

'Although he's very experienced he's still a young player and tre-mendously gifted. I think you'll

The Doc then splashed out £250,000 for England Under-21 defender Bob Hazell from Wolves.

DOCHERTY

Rangers have also signed young

striker Peter Davidson for £50,000 from Berwick Rangers, and another of Docherty's old appren-tices from Manchester United days

Gary Mickelwhite.
"I've always been an optimist and it's no good saying to the players 'I don't think we'll go straight back to the First Division'.

"Several clubs must stand a chance. Sunderland and West Ham in particular along with the clubs who were relegated last season — apart from Chelsea who may not be quite ready to return."

On his own life Docherty says: "That's all in the past now and the turbulent year I've just had with the court case and the upheaval at Derby is left behind.

"I was happy at Derby and when Queens Park Rangers asked for my services I said I was glad to stay at the Baseball Ground.
"However the Derby chairman

gave Rangers permission to talk to me and as they weren't exactly averse to losing me I figured I might as well move on. It's always the greatest thing in life to be wanted either as a player, a coach

or a manager, so I said yes.
"The great thing about Q.P.R. chairman Jim Gregory is that he is the man who makes the decisions after me — at Rangers, so I can always get hold of him to talk about policy, transfers, etc.

"At Derby the one mistake George Hardy made was in not doing his own thing. He tried to keep everyone informed and there

were too many chiefs if you like.

'The staff, the players and coaches were terrific, but at board level it was ridiculous. The club was getting nowhere fast.

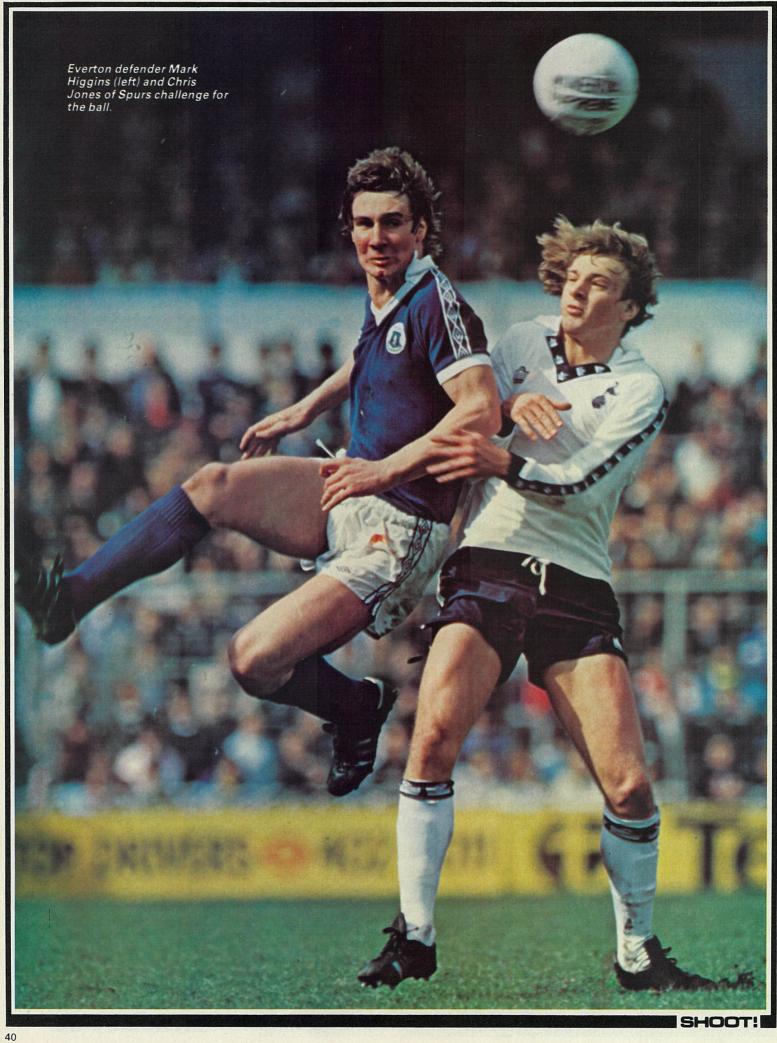
"The one thing shout me which

"The one thing about me which will always keep me in a job, always have someone wanting my services, is the fact I'm still an excellent manager and I can make





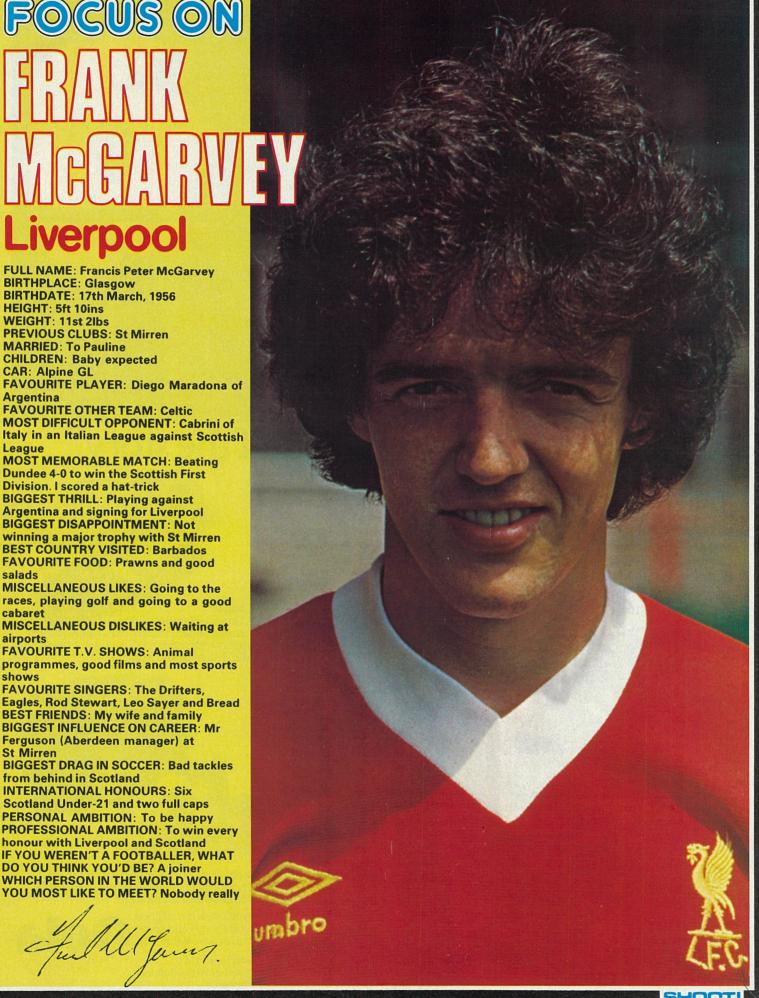






PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy

honour with Liverpool and Scotland IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A joiner WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD





"Having talent is only half the story"



Top players flocking to SWA

the leadership of player-manager John Toshack, imported £350,000 worth of top quality talent during the close season: Tommy Craig and John Mahoney, who have a background of First Division and international football, and Dave Rushbury "who is going and Dave Rushbury "who is going to be as good as the best of them," forecasts Toshack.

It was the second stage of



rebuilding under Toshack which has startled British football: first came Tommy Smith and Ian Cal-laghan from Liverpool; next Alan Waddle and Phil Boersma (also ex-Waddle and Phil Boersma (also ex-Liverpool players arriving via Leicester and Luton); then Aston Villa skipper and Wales regular Leighton Phillips.

By the time Craig, bought for £175,000 from Aston Villa and Mahoney — £100,000 buy from

Middlesbrough — had arrived this season, the once backwater foot-ball city in South Wales was beside

itself with excitement.

It seems incredible now that The Swans' previous record signing was £26,000 for Ronnie Rees in 1972. That transfer figure stood as Swansea's biggest pay-out until 12

Craig, the first Scot to join the club for a decade, says: "There was just one reason why I signed and that was John Toshack.

"All I knew about Swansea from playing one Under-23 international there was that it was a long way from anywhere. When I was told by Villa that the club wanted to talk to me I very nearly did not return the phone call.

"I thought, anyway, that it had to be the First Division or nothing to make me leave Villa Park. Yet

here I am — caught up in the excitement of the place just like everyone else. I feel that my career

is starting all over again. Mahoney admits to exactly the same reversal of opinion. "I thought that this stage in my

SWANSEA City, thriving under career, there was no way I would the leadership of player accept a step downwards. I reckoned that any departure from Middlesbrough would have to be to another First Division club. Yet when I took a look at what was happening at Swansea City, I knew I was sacrificing nothing in terms of ambition or standards."

Craig is also highly encouraged by the wider picture at the Vetch Field. "I watch the ground staff boys and apprentices in action and I know that John Toshack is creat-

I know that John Toshack is creating something that is going to last for a very long time."

For years, Swansea schools and public parks have bred some of British football's greatest players. Recently there has been some murmurings that the massive influx of top players might crowd out the youngsters now poised to out the youngsters now poised to break through. That makes

Toshack angry.

"Look, I'd much sooner put a oung player in the side now with all the experience around to help him than the way it used to be here. No talented player is ever going to be 'lost' in this club."

To help them develop even faster, Tommy Smith has stepped up to player-coach. "We're not expecting Tommy to play as many as the 46 games he managed last



John Mahoney

season," says Toshack, "but you simply cannot let knowledge like his go to waste."

In an area where rugby is reckoned to be king, the energetic and enterprising Toshack has created a staggering boom. Now all the talk is of a record Fourth to First Division climb in consecutive seasons.

Toshack refuses to be drawn into that kind of speculation. The boldness, the surging football and the pedigree have so much of a Liverpool approach to them, how-ever, that it would take a brave man to bet against this excep-tional Swansea side creating League history.



IFE has never been happier at the aptly named Gay Meadow, rural home of Shrewsbury Town.

After almost 30 years of achieving little of note the club has suddenly come to life and even this sleepy little town in the heart of slumbering Shropshire is waking

After reaching the Sixth Round of the F.A. Cup and then only going out at the second attempt to Wolves, the club finally achieved promotion for the first time in its history to the Second Division.

Leaving them out of the wilder-ness is the affable and eloquent Graham Turner, just five years ear-lier a record £30,000 signing from

"It's remarkable really that my own career has run on similar lines to the club's. It's taken me a long time to become a Second Division player after years with Wrexham and Chester.

'Now, we have a terrific opportunity to put the town on the map.
"I think there is more opportun-

ity these days for clubs like ours to make an impact provided they are well run and organised from the 'grass roots' level to the board

That may seem funny because the clubs with the most money and we're not one of them -should always be at the top. "But I think Cambridge

Cambridge, Wrexham and ourselves as well as Mansfield and Carlisle in earlier years, have shown the bigger clubs a thing or two.

"They'll have to pull their socks-up and I think we have also given a great deal of encouragement to

some of the smaller clubs who've been battering away at the bottom for years without ever getting very

Turner believes that Shrewsbury can have a good season and that they are not merely there to make up the numbers in the Second

"It's impossible to say how we'll do really, but I'm glad we've avoided the really big clubs like West Ham and Chelsea in the early matches.

"Far better to test ourselves against the sort of clubs we know before meeting the potential promotion sides.

"It's going to be great rubbing shoulders with Trevor Brooking and other great players but we'll take it a step at a time.

Performances

Incidentally, Turner reckons he'll be wise enough to know if his own performances as a player aren't coming up to scratch.

"If I'm not playing well enough to deserve a place I certainly won't be afraid to drop myself.

"We have some good young players, and while we could do with a couple more — then so could other clubs. It's going to be a very interesting season and we're all looking forward to it.

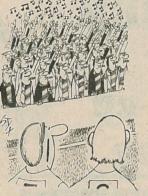
"The interesting thing will be the size of the crowds. A lot of people in the town vowed they wouldn't come until we got into the Second Division. Now we'll see if they keep their word.



This week Gordon Davies, Fulham's hat-trick hero against Birmingham on the opening day of the season, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist



"He's placing it on the spot, 30 seconds to go, he's taking aim, wham, we're out of the Cup, boss"



"That's the trouble with our fans
— they all think they're referees"





"That's Randall, sir - likes to practise falling without hurting himself"



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FES IAN REDFOR -the NEW Alan Gilzean

UNDEE manager Tommy Gemmell had just watched lan Redford score four glorious goals on August 18th to give his newly-promoted side a 4-1 victory over

At the end he said nonchalantly: "Yes, I thought lan was outstanding when he went forward but he was absent when we needed help in defence!"

Gemmell was reserved about a performance that left Dundee fans breathless and reflecting on the glory days of Alan Gilzean, their Scottish international striker who

was transferred to Tottenham in the early 1960's. Now, there is optimism that the dynamic Redford can assume the mantle once worn by the agile goal-scorer Gilzean.

St. Mirren, with more than £250,000 worth of striking talent in Doug Somner, from Partick Thistle, and Frank McDougall, from Clydebank, were left in tatters by the youngster who cost Dundee nothing when they signed him from junior club Errol Rovers five seasons ago.

His rise to fame will bring Gemmell, a perfectionist, a lot of satisfaction because it was the Dens Park boss who changed Redford's role in the team against the

player's wishes.

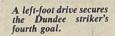
When Gemmell spent £20,000 on Arbroath's right-winger John Fletcher he decided to play with two flank men, putting former Celt Jim Murphy wide on the left. He then instructed Redford to play in a deeper position and make long runs at defences to get on the end of the crosses from Fletcher.

It was a difficult role for Redford who thought he would get more goals just by hanging about the penalty-area. However, Gemmell was certain he would be proved right in time and he was against the luckless Saints, who must hate the sight of Dens Park. They were blitzed there 4-1 in the Scottish

Cup last season!
Redford says: "It was fabulous to knock in those goals against St. Mirren. They came at just the right time at the start of the season. The previous Saturday we had

been beaten 3-0 by our city rivals United and we were getting stick. But the boss, Mr. Gemmell, told us to forget that scoreline and that game.

"He maintained we weren't as bad as the scoreline suggested and it's true to say we hit the bar when we were a



goal down and then had another ruled out when we were 2-0 down. We didn't get the breaks.

"However, my confidence took a real boost against St. Mirren. They are acknowledged as a good side and not many teams have the ability to hammer them. Like I said, that display and that result came just at the right time for me and my team-mates."

Whether Redford can make the Dundee fans forget the penalty-



The start of the rout . . . Redford scores number one from the penalty spot.

box artistry of Gilzean remains to be seen, but the boy is ambitious and determined and with Gemmell guiding him he could go all the way to the top.

Over the past couple of seasons he has threatened to make the breakthrough, but consistency has escaped him. Now, in the battle-ground of the Premier Division, he is desperate to produce the goods.

He will get good back-up service

rom Fletcher, a bargain buy and already an added dimension to the side, and Murphy, who was surprisingly freed by Celtic.

Dundee were termed as the lambs being led to the slaughter when they kicked off the season in the Top Ten. Many saw them as ready-made relegation material. ready-made relegation material.

They may be proved correct in time, of course, but at the moment the lamb, led by lan Redford, is roaring back!

Redford (number 10) is again on target with a header, this time to score his third.





e story that shoo

A T LAST I can solve two mysteries that have been puzzling Manchester United supporters since the start of the season.

I have definitely claimed the goal I scored at Southampton on the big

kick-off day.

Apparently BBC TV "Match of the Day" cameras showed the ball going into the net off Saints defender Nick Holmes. Commentator John Motson, I believe it was, stated there was no way I could claim the goal.

Well, there is . . . I have. Just to refresh your memories . . . following a free-kick to United on the left, Arthur Albiston floated the ball across Saints' goalmouth.

Post

As usual I had gone up for the setpiece and rose above my rivals to head towards goal.

The ball came off the post, hit Nick Holmes and went into the net.

All the newspapers gave me the goal, so did the Southampton lads.

Let's face it, if I hadn't headed the ball in the first place it wouldn't have struck Nick would it?

I was delighted to score in the first match of the League season, especially at The Dell where it's

always difficult to get a result. How do I think Southampton will fare this season? It's extremely difficult to gauge anything from the early games, and they were without Alan Ball, of course. He was still in the States at the beginning of the season.

But even with Ballie I can't see Saints achieving much in the League. Don't rule them out for another Wembley appearance, though.

I was quite satisfied with United's start to the season, and my second goal of 1979-80 in our 2-0 victory over West Brom at Old Trafford on August 22nd.

We then drew 0-0 at Arsenal, which was a repeat of last season's F.A. Cup Final ... without the thrills and excitement.

Our first set back came at Spurs in the Second Round League Cup-tie a few days later.

Micky Thomas scored our goal in a 2-1 defeat.

Now I can solve the second mystery. There was absolutely no truth in the report that manager Dave Sexton was going to swop Micky for **Everton winger Dave Thomas.**

United had been in for Dave, but not in exchange for Micky.

The rumour upset our chirpy,

wee lad, especially as he's only been at Old Trafford for a short

When the story appeared in a local newspaper, Dave Sexton rushed around to Micky's house and told him straight he had no intention of selling him, or exchanging him for anyone.

Micky, who surprised us all at Old Trafford by sneaking off and getting



married recently, has done well for the club.

We desperately needed someone on the left-hand side of the field after Gordon Hill's transfer to Derby County.

Not only has Micky filled that gap, but is also providing a valuable service in midfield.

There is certainly a big future for him at Manchester United.

There has been one notable departure from Old Trafford recently, striker Stuart Pearson to West Ham for £220,000.

I got on well with Pancho, as did all the lads, and was sorry to see him go.

He's a class player and should compensate for the loss of Bryan Robson, who left West Ham to rejoin Sunderland during the summer.

Pancho isn't the bustling type of striker ... he's more the touch player like Jimmy Greenhoff, creating chances, making space for others. He should provide a valuable service for David Cross at Upton Park.

Stuart has received a lot of criticism from people who say he's injury prone. Sure he's had his share, and has just recovered from a couple of operations, but the very nature of Pancho's position means that he's liable to get more knocks than other players.

Let's hope, for his and West Ham's sake, that the worst of his injury problems are now behind him.

I suppose the doubters adopted an "I told you so" attitude when he missed one of West Ham's early games because of a groin strain and then received a knock on his ankle at Watford which kept him out of

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wee Micky Thomas'



action for a while. But that was nothing to do with his earlier

A fully fit Pearson will prove as valuable an asset to West Ham as he was to Manchester United over the years . . . both on and off the field.

I wasn't surprised Pancho left because he was desperate to get away from the club in the end.

He didn't think United were paying him what he was worth and decided a transfer would be in the best interests of both parties.

Pancho parted on the best of

terms, though. There were no hard feelings between him and Dave

I was surprised he was transferred to West Ham. I thought there was no chance of a move to a club in the Second Division and in London.

Out of courtesy Pancho went down to the 'smoke', spoke to manager John Lyall and was immediately impressed with the Upton Park setup.

Although he's keen to do well at West Ham, Stuart still has a great deal of affection for United and the

I understand he's retained his house in the North and plans to return there when he retires from

Micky Thomas is the first to congratulate Gordon on his goal against South-ampton at The Dell.

Gordon Hill always a favourite with Old Trafford fans.

playing.

So it's goodbye to one old United favourite . . . and welcome to a new star destined to be just as popular ... Ray Wilkins, our near £1 million pound signing from Chelsea.

That's a lot of money, but in my view United have got a real bargain for a player of his international

Ray's only 22, yet has a pedigree that's rare in today's game.

Already he's an established England international and has proved himself at the highest level.

He had a quiet debut at Southampton, but really no one expected much from him. He was tense, nervous, eager to impress and justify that huge fee.

under his belt he'll play for United with the same authority as he does for England.

A friend told me he doubted Ray would last long at United, simply because he was a Londoner and would find it difficult to settle in the

He was obviously referring to Gordon Hill who didn't really fit in at Old Trafford.

But Ray and Gordon are totally different characters. Hilly didn't want to mix socially with the rest of the lads. He wanted to lead his own life, completely detached from United.

While I respect that view, I feel Ray will adapt to the move. He's a lot quieter than Hilly and perhaps

easier going.

Apart from being pleased Ray has joined United, I'm glad SHOOT Editor Peter Stewart has decided to keep us both on as columnists.

Naturally, neither of us wanted to give up writing for the magazine, which is by far the best on the market, despite the introduction of a few rivals this season.

Gordon Hill, a columnist until the start of the season, returns to Old Trafford this Saturday (September 15th) when Derby County are the visitors.

Hilly was popular with the United fans because he scored amazing goals and plenty of them.

I was surprised when he got sentoff at Palace recently for swearing at the referee. I suppose all the problems he and Derby have had suddenly came to a head at Selhurst Park and he just blew a fuse.

Last season we drew 0-0 with Derby at Old Trafford. It was just after the bad weather and the pitch was bone hard.

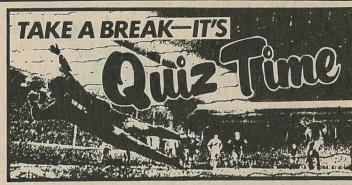
Perhaps it's not surprising that the game was as atrocious as the conditions.

I certainly expect a better per-formance from United this time . . . and a victory.

Derby County were a great side a couple of years ago, but their recent troubles seem to have knocked the stuffing out of them.

New manager Colin Addison must be given time to reorganise the team. There's still plenty of talent at the Baseball Ground, with Bruce Rioch, Roy McFarland, Gordon Hill, Gerry Daly, 'keeper John Middleton, Roy Greenwood and Dave Langan.

I expect Colin will be satisfied if Derby managed to end the season about halfway in the table. Good luck to him and The Rams . . . but not on Saturday, of course.



- 1. West Ham paid £400,000 to which Scottish Premier Division club for teenage full-back Ray Stewart?
- 2. True or false? Wolves' Emlyn Hughes (right) was omitted from Ron Greenwood's original England squad for the European Championship clash with Denmark at Wembley?
- 3. Which Derby County player was sent-off against Crystal Palace on September 1st?
- 4. Can you name the England international who rejoined his former club Burnley recently?
- 5. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of a First Division manager and his club . . . YJMIM MAANSDO (ELSDE TINUDE).
- 6. Bryan Robson, in his second spell with Sunderland, has played for two other League clubs ... which?



- 7. Who was manager of Norwich City before John Bond took over?
- 8. Tottenham's 2-1 League win against Manchester City at White Hart Lane was their first victory over the Northerners since 1970, 1971 or 1972?
- 9. After just three League games Nottingham Forest sold Asa Hartford to which club for £400,000?
- 10. Q.P.R. boss Tommy Docherty paid £250,000 for which England B international?

LEAGUE CUP

The Second Round first-leg ties of the League Cup were played recently. See if you can answer the following questions.

- 11. Southend United travelled to which First Division club and won 2-17
- 12. Did John Pratt (right) or Glenn Hoddle score the goal for Spurs against Manchester United that is already an early candidate for Goal of the Season?
- 13. Southampton beat Wrexham at The Dell 3-0, 4-0 or 5-0?
- 14. Barnsley lost 1-3 to West Ham. Was the game played at Oakwell or Upton Park?
- 15. What was the result of the big North-East derby between Sunderland and Newcastle at Roker Park?



GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— 1) Woodcock. 7) Me. 8) Eric. 10) The Toffees. 12) One. 13) Pass. 15) Am. 16) Raised. 18) Team. 20) Direct. 22) Risen. 24) Rue. 25) Event. 27) Case. 29) Ma. 30) Rix. 32) Plods. 35) Leeds. 37) Ten. 38) Or. 39) Oh!

DOWN:— 1) Wit. 2) Omen. 3) Determined. 4) Offside. 5) Keeper. 6) Miss. 9) Readers. 11) Home. 14) Site. 15) Attempt. 17) Sincil. 19) Are. 21) Cue. 23) St. 26) Vale. 28) Axed. 31) Ash. 33) On. 34) So. 36) Do.

Jumbled Name: IAN WALLACE.

ANSWERS:



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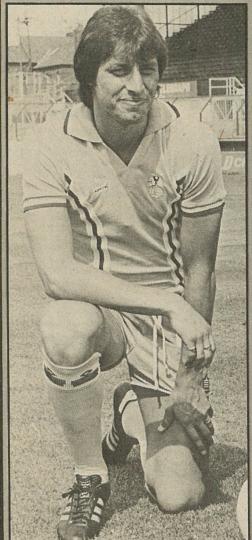
COLLEGE ROAD, WESTBURY -ON-TRYM, BRISTOL BS9 3EJ.

WHEN Gary Collier rejected Bristol City's terms in May and signed for Coventry City, he became the first player to change clubs under the new freedom of contract rules.

"I rang Coventry City and told them I was a free agent," says the 24-year-old defender, "and asked if they were interested.
"From then on we had talks. The actual transfer went through on May 8th, but since then I've signed twice because of all the different things that have had to be written into the

With both clubs failing to reach an agreement a fee of £350,000 was reached on July 26th, after an independent tribunal hearing in Manchester. This meant that Gary had to sign another contract before the season started.

'Up until the fee was decided I was still being paid by Bristol City, which is an odd position to be in for both player and club," he says. Coventry boss, Gordon Milne, had been after Collier for about five years and had tried several



"That's one reason why The Sky Blues interested me," says Gary. "I'd never heard anything definite from Gordon or anyone else, but I'd read it in the papers. There'd often been reports in the Bristol Press about the Coventry boss putting in a bid for me.

"But in the main, it was ambition that lured me to Highfield Road. Coventry are a very ambitious club, they've got a lot of good young players and I think they're going places. "I've played at Highfield Road about three or

four times and the set up has always impressed me. I could compare them with the Arsenals of this world."

Collier, born in Bristol, arrived at Ashton Gate straight from school in August, 1971, and turned professional in November, 1972. He made his League debut against Luton in March,

1973, and made 215 first team appearances.
"I'd been at Bristol City eight years," says
Gary, "and I didn't think I was playing to the
best of my ability. Really, eight years is too long
and I needed a break. I didn't see much of a future at Ashton Gate.

"Obviously I've left a lot of good friends, but it was getting to the stage in my career that if I didn't leave this year, then I wouldn't have left. "I think I've made the right decision. It's a move for the better and I'm very happy."

Collier, bought for his defensive qualities, is

expected to link up with Jim Holton at the heart

of The Sky Blues defence.
"I've got to prove to myself and to the club
that I'm good enough to play," he says.

'Competition'

"Obviously they've got faith in me after paying out that kind of money, but it's by no means certain that I'll be playing regularly. I'll have to earn my place in the side.

"There's a lot of competition at Highfield Road with a squad of around 19 players, each of whom can fit into the side and do a really good.

whom can fit into the side and do a really good job. They're comparatively young as well. It's not as if everybody's ageing and on the down-ward slope. These lads are on their way up and learning every day."

Collier, who can play either five or six, describes himself as fairly quick and a good

reader of the game.
"I'm not brilliant in the air," he says, "but adequate. I can strike a good ball. In the tackle I

adequate. I can strike a good ball. In the tackle I try to jockey the opposing players, pushing them into tight positions rather than diving in and letting them pass me.

"My aim is to do well and, hopefully, help Coventry City to win something. They've always been able to score goals and that's another thing I liked about the club.

"At Bristol we played a lot of games and you

"At Bristol we played a lot of games and you could never see us scoring. It was a case of how long we could hold the other side at bay, which meant we were getting beaten one-nil in the last ten minutes.

"They never seem dangerous throughout the game, whereas at Coventry, even if they're one or two goals down, there's always the chance

that they can get back into it.

"If The Sky Blues can continue to score the same number of goals they have been doing over the past two seasons and we can keep it tight at the back, then I can see the team doing

really well.
"Top six, I hope, if not better."

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with the tactics designed to keep goals down to an absolute minimum. Con-sequently it is less attractive to watch than it used to be.

That was the verdict of ex-Everton capatain and England centre-half Brian Labone on soccer in 1979. Brian is in the insurance business these days, though it doesn't prevent him from taking an interest in how his old team are progressing at Goodison Park. Signed for Everton in July, 1957, Labone wore the blue shirt with distinction until he retired from League football in June, 1974, and he still has happy memories of those times when he was a

top defender.
"My biggest thrill was when we beat
Sheffield Wednesday 3-2 in the 1966 F.A., Cup Final. Not even playing for England could equal the satisfaction of that win at Wembley. And my biggest disappointment was on the same pitch, on the occasion of our 1-0 defeat against West Brom in the

F.A. Cup Final of 1968.
"With Everton, the need for success is every bit as great as it was when I played.

What would be a satisfactory position in the First Division for most clubs is practically looked upon as failure at Goodison.

The city of Liverpool demands two first class teams; at Anfield and at my old ground, and the pressure is on both clubs ▲ to get results.

As an international centre-half, Labone came up against outstanding teams, and was tremendously impressed with the Brazilians.

He says: "Appearing for England in 1970 against Brazil convinced me of one thing they were the greatest. And proved it in winning the 1970 World Cup."

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XXIIISIV

FEW PLAYERS get excited about scoring goals in pre-season friendlies. But the two Crystal Palace's new £720,000 signing from Charlton Mike Flanagan scored against Chelsea at Selhurst Park on August 11th were price-

"Those two goals ended a night-mare," says Mike. "They proved that even after seven months out of the game I hadn't lost my touch.
"Believe me, I had spent many

sleepless nights since I walked out on Charlton last February, wondering if I still had a future in the game.

"It was vital I made a good start for Palace. Scoring against Chelsea pleased the home fans and got them on my side from the beginning.

A week later, Mike made his League debut for newly-promoted Palace at Manchester City, ironic-ally one of the few top English clubs prepared to meet Charlton's valuation of their rebel striker.

"When I appeared at Maine Road all the trouble and soul-searching torture of the past months vanished. The Valley seemed a million miles away," says the England B international.

The bitter seven month saga of Mike Flanagan's dispute with Charlton is now well known.

It all started when he was sentoff for fighting with team-mate Derek Hales during a Third Round F.A. Cup-tie against Maidstone at the Valley on January 9th.

Then he walked out on the club, staging a one-man strike which did nothing to enhance his, or the game's reputation.

Mike was branded a hot-tempered trouble-maker, out to make a quick fortune.

Just Cause

They were untrue accusations that deeply hurt this likeable and intelligent 25-year-old former Spurs amateur. But as the very sound of his name suggests, Flanagan was determined to stand by his principles and fight for the cause he felt was just.

"I didn't walk out on Charlton simply because of the Hales inci-dent," says Mike. "The punch-up and my suspension simply

brought matters to a head.
"I had agreed to sign a three year contract with the club on the understanding they would allow me to go back to America and the

New England Tea Men.

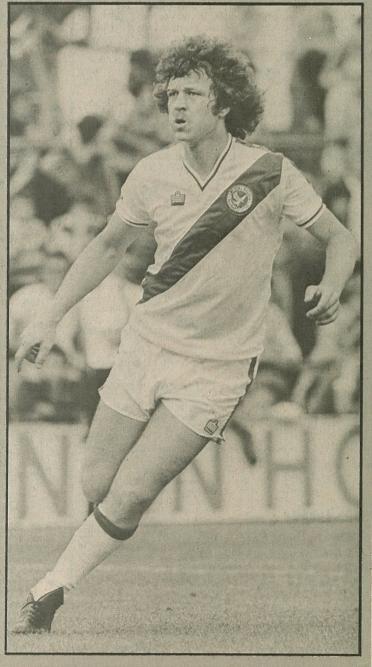
"Then I was told I wouldn't be going to the States. I felt the club had let me down.

"After my sending-off I was fined by Charlton and Hales was 'sacked'. But everyone knew he would be reinstated.

'I made up my mind there and then there was no way I could ever play in the same side as Hales

"So having already handed in a transfer request I walked out determined to stick it out even though I knew I may never play again.

— the final piece in the Palace jigsaw



New England, the club he had helped put on the NASL map, headed the queue for his signature.

Arsenal made an approach, but refused to pay Charlton's asking price... Tampa Bay Rowdies were rejected by Flanagan, so were Coventry and Manchester

City.
"Tony Book and Malcolm Allison
"Tony Book and Malcolm Allison tried to persuade me to go North, but I felt there were too many good players leaving Maine Road and wasn't too keen to join a club in the process of rebuilding.

"I also knew Arsenal were again showing interest and that another London club had contacted Charlton, so decided to wait a little longer."

The "other" club were, of course, Crystal Palace, who were in the process of raising the neces-sary cash by selling young starlet Steve MacKenzie to Manchester

City for £250,000.
"Before that, though, New Eng-

land made me a lucrative offer of a five year contract. But I turned it down because it was too binding and one sided," says Mike.

Then, when it seemed as though Mike would be permanently involved in his father's painting and decorating business, which had belied keep him fit and his family. helped keep him fit and his family eating during the summer, Palace boss Terry Venables agreed terms

with Chariton.
Flanagan returned from a short break in Ireland met Terry and ended the wrangle which had caused a sensation and a Football League inquiry which upheld Charlton's decision to suspend him and refuse to consider reducing the fee.

Good Wishes

Mike may well still hold a grudge against Charlton, but their manager Andy Nelson wishes him well.

"There are no bad feelings," says Nelson. "Flanagan was a good player for Charlton. I'm just pleased the whole affair has been settled."

Now the question remains. Will Mike Flanagan, who showed pace, control, a natural instinct to score goals and a willingness to work hard for his team-mates in the Second Division make the grade in the First?

Palace boss Terry Venables has

no doubts.

"He is a class player — a player of real quality. With Flanagan in the side I feel Palace are more than equipped for the First Division.

Mike also has a fan in the club's England defender Kenny Sansom.

"He will get goals for us and will be a huge success make no mistake about that. I developed an understanding with Flan when we played together in the England B side. His one-touch game is superb."

But what about Mike himself. How does he see the future at Crystal Palace?

"Great. Terry Venables isn't going to be content being manager of just another First Division side. He wants to go places with Palace.

"My personal target? To score goals and prove I'm the finishing touch in Terry's team . . . the final piece in the Palace jigsaw."



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